

Khamenei named head of world's Shites

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has named its spiritual leader as the supreme head of the world's 100 million Shiite Muslims, a senior Iranian official said in an interview published Tuesday. Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Iranian judiciary, told the English-language Iran News daily that Muslims around the world had chosen Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as their leader. Iranian officials started referring to Mr. Khamenei as a grand ayatollah last week, when Grand Ayatollah Ali Araki, the supreme leader of the sect, died of old age. Traditionally the marja ala, or supreme spiritual leader, of the Shites has been chosen from the grand ayatollahs, the top ranking clerics in Iran or Iraq by theologians themselves in the leading Shiite seminaries in Qom and the holy city of Najaf in Iraq. There are less than a dozen grand ayatollahs alive. Khamenei, 55, possesses the qualifications of a middle-ranking cleric, and there has been no official word that he had been promoted to grand ayatollah by Iran's religious establishment.

Jordan Times

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Queen Beatrix arrives on 3-day state visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and His Royal Highness Prince Claus arrived here Tuesday on a three-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. Queen Beatrix and her husband were accorded a full honour ceremony on arrival at Amman Airport.

Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus were welcomed upon arrival by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, in addition to Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Princess Taghrid, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath, Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, Princess Rania, Prince Talal Ibn Mohammad, Princess Ghida, Prince Ghazi Ibn Mohammad, Princess Sumayyah Al Hassan and several Royal family members.

Also receiving the royal couple were Prime Minister

Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, and senior civil and military officials.

Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus are accompanied by an official delegation, including the foreign minister, the royal court chief and senior Dutch officials.

Just prior to the arrival of the Dutch Royal couple King Hussein expressed hope that Jordan would set a good example for others in the region in the application of democratic rule.

Speaking to a Dutch television crew accompanying the Queen on her visit to Jordan, the King said Jordan applies democracy, exercises political pluralism and respects human rights.

He said Jordan was ready to contribute to the cause of peace much more than in the past.

On Dutch-Jordanian relations the King said: "We are

extremely close and very, very good friends and our relations are the best in mutual respect, and cooperation is desired to grow far beyond that."

The King, who was speaking at Al Nadwa Palace, said Holland has always had a very special role and "as far as we are concerned a special place in our hearts."

Later on Tuesday Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus visited the martyr's monument, where they were received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Abdul Hafez Al Ka'abneh, and senior Armed Forces officers. Gen. Ka'abneh presented Queen Beatrix with the martyr's medal as a commemorative gift.

The Queen hosted a reception at her residence in Hashemieh Palace in honour of the Dutch community. The reception was attended by the Dutch ambassador to Jordan and the honorary consul of the Netherlands.

Later, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataat Al Hassan received his Dutch counterpart and discussed with him bilateral relations particularly in such areas as tourism and economic cooperation. The two also discussed preparation made for the Amman economic conference which will be held next year.

Mr. Al Hassan briefed the Dutch foreign minister on the dimensions of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and Jordan's central role in the peace process.

The guest praised Jordan's role in the peace process and voiced his country's interest in broadening scopes of cooperation with Jordan in various fields.

On Tuesday evening King Hussein and Queen Noor hosted a dinner banquet at Basman Palace in honour of Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus. Both monarchs exchanged speeches on the occasion of the queen's visit (text of both speeches on page 12)



His Majesty King Hussein receives Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands at Amman Airport

King accepts Hindawi's resignation Cabinet change, reshuffle not expected before budget clears Houses of Parliament

By Lamis K. Andoni
 Special to the Jordan Times

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Tuesday accepted the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Thounqan Hindawi but no reshuffle or change in the Cabinet was expected prior to the ratification of the 1995 fiscal budget that will be debated in Parliament today.

Political analysts expected the veteran politician's withdrawal from the cabinet to weaken the government's position during the parliamentary debate on an already controversial budget.

Although differences between Mr. Hindawi and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali were well-known, his sudden resignation came as a surprise especially that Mr. Hindawi was personally brought to the Cabinet upon a request by King Hussein.

In his resignation letter Mr. Hindawi cited "lack of achievement and cloudiness" of government policies. Well-informed analysts, including Parliament members and former ministers, were divided on assessing the motivations behind Mr. Hindawi's resignation.

While some viewed it as a strong political statement to

protest against the government's management of the peace era others dismissed it as an attempt to undermine the Cabinet and consequently accelerate the process of its departure from the scene.

"It will not work. The Palace has traditionally refused to act under pressure," said one critic of Mr. Hindawi's decision.

But various accounts of what happened at the last Cabinet meeting attended by the former deputy minister suggest that even if Mr. Hindawi was indeed trying to weaken the government there were significant differences over how to manage the peace era.

According to one account, Mr. Hindawi has not been pleased with the government's performance since the first day he was included in it as part of a major reshuffle on June 8, but it was his expressed reservations about the government's efforts to ensure financial aid to Jordan that prompted him to leave.

During a Cabinet meeting he attended the Saturday before last, one well-placed source said, Mr. Hindawi reacted negatively when the

Majali to Hindawi: 'I respect your views and wishes'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Tuesday that he would always cherish his friendship with outgoing Deputy Prime Minister Thounqan Hindawi who resigned from the government Monday.

Speaking after a Royal Decree was issued approving the resignation of Mr. Hindawi, Dr. Majali said: "I respect Mr. Hindawi and appreciate his views and accept his wish to leave the government."

Dr. Majali said that Mr. Hindawi had exerted sincere efforts to carry out his duties during his membership in the present government, and he expressed his best wishes to the outgoing deputy prime minister.

Egypt dismisses reports of 'mysterious' deaths in Jordan, Iraq

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian ministers dismissed on Tuesday local press reports that unusual numbers of Egyptian workers in Iraq and Jordan were dying violent deaths.

For several weeks Egyptians were coming home in coffins with injuries that did not match the stated cause of death.

The reports were reminiscent of those during the crisis of 1989, when tens of thousands of Egyptians left Iraq because of reports that Iraqis discharged from the army and desperate for jobs were beating and killing other Egyptian workers.

But Manpower and Employment Minister Ahmad Al Amawi told a parliamentary committee that there was no evidence of a systematic persecution of Egyptians in

Arab countries or of death squads set up to attack them. Mustafa Abdul Aziz, assistant foreign minister for emigration affairs, told the committee that in the first 11 months of this year 151 Egyptians had died in Jordan and 121 in Iraq.

He gave a breakdown of the causes of death in all the cases, except for 32 in Iraq for which he said the cause was unknown.

Out of the 272 Egyptians, 178 died of natural causes and 48 from traffic or work accidents. Twelve were executed — five in Jordan and seven in Iraq — and two were murdered in personal or family disputes, he said.

"These rates are no more than one would expect, given the size of the expatriate population in these countries."

The reports in the newspapers contained much unjustified exaggeration," he added.

He said there were 300,000 Egyptians in Jordan and at least 200,000 in Iraq, though the figures for Iraq are not exact.

Algerian newspapers strike against killing

TUNIS (R) — Algeria's main newspapers staged a strike Tuesday in protest against murders of journalists by Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas. The strike followed the killing of Said Mekbel, editor of Le Matin, who was shot in the head Saturday by suspected militants as he ate in a restaurant in Algiers. He was buried on Tuesday in his home town Bejaia. Mr. Mekbel was the 27th journalist to be killed since June 1993 in attacks blamed on Muslim militants, according to the French group Reporters Sans Frontieres (reporters without borders). "The only way left for us to express loyalty to the martyrs of the profession is to keep newspapers distributed," the daily El Moudjahid said Tuesday.

Three government-controlled dailies ignored the strike, called by the Newspapers Editors Association. Eight leading newspapers went on strike for three days in October when two other journalists were shot dead. The government pledged Sunday to tighten security for journalists and plans to house some in guarded areas.

Israeli Likud leader Netanyahu pays one-day visit to Jordan

By Ghadeer Taher
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan held talks Tuesday with Israel's right-wing Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu during his first visit to the Kingdom on the future of the peace in the region and ways to support the process.

King Hussein, who received the opposition leader at the Royal Court, said that he and Mr. Netanyahu had "not only similar views but identical views on the subjects that were discussed so far."



Benjamin Netanyahu

The King, who said he hoped the upcoming period will witness work towards supporting the peace process, discussed with the Knesset member the future of the peace process, the interests of both the Jordanian and Israeli people and the region as a whole.

"There is no opposition to peace in Israel. There is a loyal opposition that loyally supports any genuine peace that Israel has with any Arab country, any Arab party. This is the peace we have with Jordan," Mr. Netanyahu told journalists in answer to a question about the role of the opposition in Israel.

"It is a peace that received the support of almost the entire Israeli parliament... I must say that my visit... has confirmed the sincerity and desire for peace, genuine peace, peace of prosperity, peace of security that we have with Jordan. This reflects our policy and continues to reflect our policy," said the Likud leader, who returned back through the King Hussein Bridge after concluding his one-day visit.

The Likud Party has said it backs Israel's peace treaty with Jordan, but a powerful faction of the party had long supported the idea of creating a Palestinian state inside Jordan instead of the West Bank and Gaza occupied by Israel in the 1967 war.

Mr. Netanyahu, who acted as spokesman for the Israeli negotiating team during the first several rounds of talks held in Washington, repeatedly supported this position arguing that the Palestinians already had a state in Jordan since many of Jordan's 4.5 million people are of Palestinian origin.

"As far as we are concerned what is important is that there is a definable Israel today and a definable Jordan and definable not only in terms of borders but in terms of economic parameters, social parameters and legal parameters," Crown Prince Hassan said in answer to a question about Likud's long-held position that Jordan is Palestine.

"I think this is a position we have to consolidate," the Crown Prince, who described the talks as an exchange of views rather than negotiations, told journalists accompanying him and Mr. Netanyahu to the Martyrs' Monument in Karameh. Mr. Netanyahu, who laid a wreath at the monument, suggested a joint Israeli-Jordanian monument be erected to mark the soldiers who fell on both sides.

"I could not agree more," Mr. Netanyahu said concurring with the Prince's view.

"There is no question that we in the Likud believe that the integrity of Jordan and of the present government in Jordan is in Israel's interest. It is not against our interest but very much in our interest," he said.

Asked if Jordan would hold Israel find an alternative to negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which the Likud leader still brands as a terrorist group, Prince Hassan said: "I want to say very clearly that we are fully supportive of the desire of the Palestinian people to further discussions with the government of Israel. We are supportive of institution-building by the Palestinian people, we are supportive of the creation of a stable dialogue between Israel and the Palestinian people."

"We abhor violence and act against it. We look to the international community as we did as part of the donors conference recently held in Brussels for further convincing evidence of a desire to develop the rights of the Palestinian people and their search for a better quality of life," the Crown Prince added.

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians, Israelis hold crucial talks

CAIRO (AFP) — A new round of Israeli-Palestinian talks opened here Tuesday aimed at setting a target date for the staging of self-rule elections and an Israeli army redeployment on the West Bank.

The negotiations were being held against a background of growing concern by the Israeli military over the security implications of any pullback on the West Bank, home to 120,000 Jewish settlers and more than a million Palestinians.

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said the negotiators would try to set a "target date" as soon as possible for the elections and redeployment, adding "we are ready

to negotiate every necessary measure to maintain security in the West Bank as well as Gaza."

One committee was discussing the elections and the other the army withdrawal.

"This morning the two sides discussed how to organize the negotiations. Detailed talks began this afternoon in the two committees," an Israeli delegate said on condition his name not be used.

Israeli army chiefs have warned that a redeployment on the occupied West Bank, which should take place by the eve of the elections in line with the 1993 autonomy agreement, will only multiply the flashpoints with the Palestinians.

European summit ends in shambles

BUDAPEST (AFP) — A key security summit, billed as a new forum for settling European conflicts, ended in shambles Tuesday when 52 countries failed to agree on how to deal with the Bosnian conflict, the bloodiest on the old continent since the close of World War II.

Despite intensive consultations, no consensus on a final statement could be found, the conference chairman and summit host, Hungarian President Arpad Goncz, said at the close of the two-day Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe summit here.

The Bosnian delegate, for his party, delivered a ringing denunciation of the CSCE's failure to live up to its principles.

"The documents being adopted today eloquently repeat CSCE principles and the commitment of all participating states to them, but the reality is that such professions are not upheld," Mamir Hajiametovic said.

"You repeatedly allowed the Serbs to commit aggression, you allowed the starvation and strangulation of other people. You even allowed the Serbs to make a mockery of the international community," the Bosnian delegate said.

He queried the worth of strengthening the CSCE and its conflict prevention and crisis management mechanisms "when the political will to uphold CSCE principles is so lacking."

Mr. Hajiametovic said one delegation (Russia) had refused to agree a statement "condemning the aggression against BiHac," a northwestern Bosnian Muslim-held enclave.

Russia had been one of the key issues under discussion at the summit, but both Russia and Bosnia had rejected a compromise statement, Mr.

Yeltsin: U.S. cannot run world

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin lashed out at U.S. dominance of world policy on Tuesday, saying that the United States had tried to run the CSCE summit in Budapest. "I hope you clearly understood my words when I said that the destiny of the whole world must not be decided in one capital," he said in a television broadcast, clearly referring to Washington.

Mr. Yeltsin said President Bill Clinton had been hoping to turn the two-day Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which closed in Budapest on Tuesday, into a U.S.-run show. "He wanted to inaugurate and preside over a little summit" marking Ukraine's signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Mr. Yeltsin said on Ostankino television broadcast here. "If that's what he wanted to do, he didn't succeed, therefore he was not at all the victor," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Goncz said.

Russia vetoed part of the statement which referred to the Bosnian Serbs as "aggressors" in the Muslim-held enclave of BiHac in northwest Bosnia.

Bosnia rejected a ceasefire call because summiters had rejected the reference to Serb "aggressors."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other speakers, including the U.S. delegate, regretted that a ceasefire had not been agreed to.

Mr. Kohl said he feared reaction back home if young Germans thought the summit had got bogged down, and stressed that winter was setting in and hunger threatened people in the war zones.

Russia was also the centre of other major differences at the Budapest summit, with President Boris Yeltsin opposing the United States on possible expansion of the NATO military alliance to the Russian border.

The Yeltsin government had been seeking increased CSCE intervention and peacekeeping powers to restore its great-power "sphere of influence," analysts said.

But Russia accepted a compromise deal for sending a CSCE force to the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan, an ex-Soviet

republic to which it wanted to send its own troops.

Russia was accorded co-chairmanship of the nine-country group tasked with preventing resurgence of fighting over the Armenian-populated territory.

"We are determined to give a new political impetus to the CSCE, thus enabling it to play an essential role in meeting the challenges of the 21st century," a document adopted by the CSCE summit said.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali had urged the summit Monday to issue a call for negotiations in Bosnia as the only solution.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and British Prime Minister John Major also called in Budapest on the Bosnian Serbs to stop fighting and accept negotiations based on the "contact group" plan.

The plan sponsored by Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States calls for division of Bosnia-Herzegovina — 49 per cent for Serbs and 51 per cent for a federation of Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

The Serb forces which currently hold some 70 per cent of the war-ravaged former Yugoslav republic have rejected the plan.

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RESTAURANT

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BRITISH AIRWAYS
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British Airways makes club membership a family affair

JORDAN, Monday - In an exciting new development, British Airways is providing the passport to the delights of its Middle East Executive Club free to families of club members. Relatives will be able to help accumulate miles and earn free travel, the world's favourite airline has announced.

The offer, made in the form of a 'Family Passport', provides mileage benefits through Executive Club membership to individuals nominated by members. They can be anyone over the age of two.

The Family Passport is being introduced on 1 October 1994 and is available until 30 April next year. The airline says the offer will be extended if customer reaction is positive.

Club members can designate six people who will earn miles when travelling, contributing to a common pool. Family members from both the Middle East and overseas can be nominated by the member to enjoy free travel based on the miles collected.

"In this way, members of the

Deutsche Air and TAT - saying with the airline's partners, Hilton and Marriott by hiring cars from Hertz.

Service benefits for members, says Ms Rose include priority wait-listing, hour emergency assistance, access to airport lounges, preferred hotel and car hire rates and unbeatable insurance schemes, details of which are to be announced shortly.

There are three categories of Executive Club membership - Gold, Silver and Blue card holders, each offering special privileges. Entry to the Gold and Silver tiers will be offered automatically to members reaching the required number of flights.

"We have set up a Member Service Centre in Bahrain so that member enquiries can be managed locally in the Middle East," commented Ms Rose. "More benefits specially developed for Middle East members are expected to be introduced over the coming months."

The Middle East programme, an extension of the hugely successful Executive Club, has been launched in response to customer listening forums held in the region, which showed a strong demand for a British Airways loyalty scheme.

"It is by hearing what passengers say and then adapting our services accordingly that we have become the most successful airline in the world," added Ms Rose. "This has particularly influenced our introduction of the 'Family Passport' in the Middle East."

"We are running a series of advertisements throughout the region explaining how the value of a British Airways ticket can be stretched by membership of the Executive Club."

"These advertisements will encourage anyone interested in travel to enrol. Details on membership can be obtained from the Executive Club office in Bahrain on (00973) 215767, fax (00973) 215747, P.O. Box 11767, Manama, Bahrain."

"It is our way of saying thank you for flying British Airways!"

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Tao-Tao
17:30 Los Tresos Du Monde
19:00 News in French
19:45 E-M6
19:50 Coach
20:30 Life in the Freezer
21:10 Quantum Leap
21:30 Snowy River
22:30 News in English
23:10 Coming of Age

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 Fajr
06:17 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:27 Dhuhr
14:13 'Asr
16:36 Maghreb
17:58 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swatfeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771781
Armenian International Church Tel. 625236
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624338
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will continue to rise with clouds building up and winds becoming southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 0/12
Aqaba 10/22
Deserts 1/13
Jordan Valley 6/20
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 10 Aqaba 20. Humidity

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 59 per cent.
Aqaba 47 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zawalidh 736011
Dr. Fakher Belbassi 663412
Dr. Yousef Nair 751144
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour 666873
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 776336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626762
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 279773
Al Quds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halaseh 982799
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 76121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 121
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 010230
Overseas Calls 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 731111
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 815615
Jordan Electricity Authority 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akilich Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642462
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Italian, Al-Mulajra 77101/2
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, J. Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)75555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:35 Jeddah (RJ)
08:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:05 Larnaca (RJ)
10:50 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:05 London (RJ)
11:25 Beirut (RJ)
11:45 Athens (RJ)
12:35 New Delhi (RJ)
12:55 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
13:25 Sanaa, Aden (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)
10:25 Larnaca (CY)
10:30 Yemen (Y)
10:35 Jeddah (SV)
10:45 Damascus (AZ)
12:35 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:20 Algiers (AH)
14:30 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
16:25 Beirut (ME)
23:05 Athens (OA)
23:20 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:30 Rome (RJ)
10:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
10:25 Berlin, London (RJ)
10:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:05 Istanbul (RJ)
11:25 Colombo (RJ)
11:35 Beirut (RJ)
11:45 Athens (RJ)
12:00 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
12:05 Riyadh (RJ)
12:45 New Delhi (RJ)
12:55 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
13:25 Sanaa, Aden (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Beirut (ME)
10:30 Cairo (MS)
11:05 Larnaca (CY)
11:30 Yemen (Y)
11:35 Jeddah (SV)
11:45 Rome (AZ)
11:50 Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:20 Sharjah (AH)

15:45 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)

08:30 Amsterdam (KL)
02:40 Athens (OA)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700 / 500
Banana 680
Banana (small) 630
Cabbage 150 / 80
Carrot 320/200
Cauliflower 350 / 200
Clementine 220 / 160
Cucumbers (large) 480 / 300
Cucumbers (small) 280 / 180
Eggplant 330 / 220
Grape Fruit 550/400
Grape 280 / 180
Lemon 320 / 220
Marrow (large) 200 / 150
Marrow (small) 450 / 300
Onion (dry) 340 / 200
Onion (green) 420 / 300
Orange 420 / 300
Pepper (hot) 420 / 300
Pepper (sweet) 430 / 240
Potato 200 / 160
Radish 320 / 200
Spinach 320 / 200
Tomato 550 / 300



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday awards certificates to women from Madaba who completed a two-month course on the importance of tourism. Princess Basma is accompanied here by Ministry of Tourism Secretary General Ghassan Mufleh (Petra photo)

Princess Basma awards graduates of tourism awareness course

MADABA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday attended the graduation ceremony of a Friends of Tourism course organised by the Madaba Tourism Activation Office on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

Madaba Governor Abdul Qader Hababeh delivered an address in which he stressed that Jordan should always be prepared to deal with developments and changes, namely in the tourism sector.

Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Ghassan Mufleh said in another address that Jordan cares about expanding its various tourism activities.

The Kingdom, Dr. Mufleh said, is working to spread public awareness of tourism through a campaign of distributing brochures, organising lectures, holding film and slide shows and promoting tourist attractions in the local market and abroad.

Director of the Madaba Tourism Activation Office Ghaleb Masarweh lauded Princess Basma's role in supporting voluntary and social societies, saying the course was organised by his office to spread awareness of the importance of tourism in the Madaba governorate.

Mr. Masarweh also praised His Majesty King Hussein's

role in supporting the tourism sector, which he described as one of the main pillars of the Jordanian economy.

At the end of the ceremony, Princess Basma distributed diplomas to the 55 women graduates, representing charity societies and the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) and awards to the excellent ones.

The participants in the two-month course were given lectures and practical training on dealing with tourists, protecting the environment, maintaining archaeological sites and ways to spread public awareness of the importance of tourism.

Majali discusses peace process with visiting American Near East interest group

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, headed by its president, Robert Satloff, Tuesday met Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and expressed their support for Jordan's pivotal role in the peace making process.

The group which includes former U.S. Secretary of State Joseph Sisco among other prominent Americans, lauded His Majesty King Hussein's role in the peace treaty with Israel describing the treaty as creating a good opportunity for progress in the region.

Mr. Satloff said his group, which is on a tour of Jordan, Israel and Syria to discuss the peace process, would pursue efforts to enhance the process through various institutions in the United States as well as political forums.

Dr. Majali voiced Jordan's hope that the United States would pursue efforts to help achieve a comprehensive

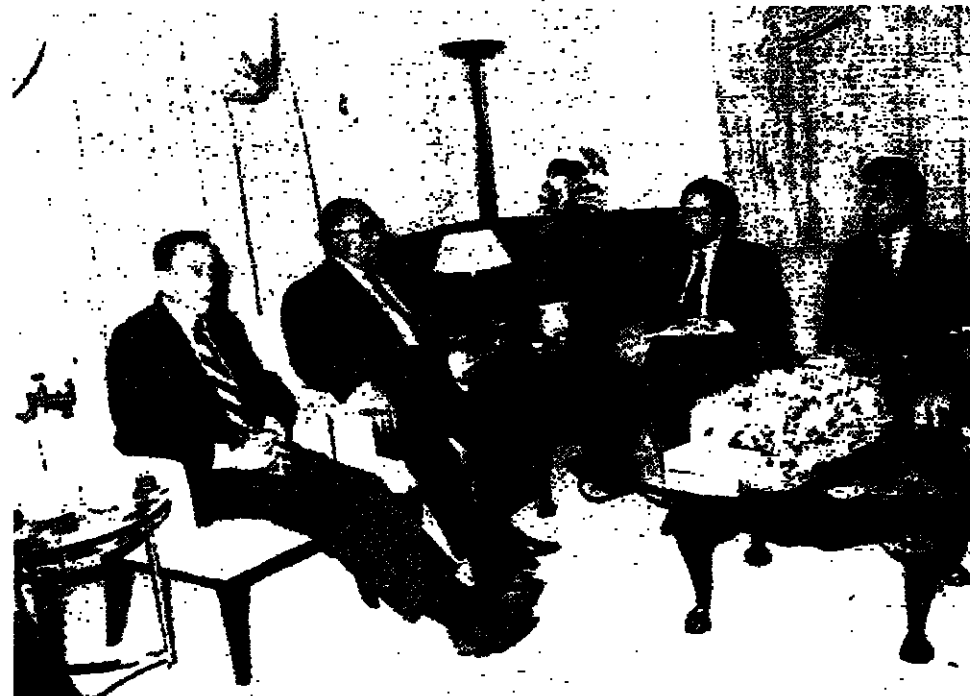
peace and back efforts to restore political stability and security to the region.

The American visitors had earlier met Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa and association members, who called on the United States to back Jordan's development process through increased American aid

and further investments in the Kingdom.

Mr. Satloff told Mr. Tabbaa that Washington was fully behind the peace process and totally committed to ensuring its sustainability and helping Jordan attain its aspirations.

Association members demanded that the United States write off all Jordan's debts to Washington and that the American administration provide annual financial aid to the Kingdom to help Jordan overcome problems such as poverty and unemployment.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali reviews the Middle East peace process with a visiting delegation of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, headed by Robert Satloff (Petra photo)

British firm to overhaul canal for JD 9.6m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Tuesday awarded a JD 9.6 million contract to the British firm, George Wimpey, to conduct an overhaul of the King Abdullah Canal in the Jordan Valley starting early next year.

The contract, signed by Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irshaidat, entails lining the canal, replacing parts of the old installations, improving the condition of roads leading to the canal and cleaning the canal siphons.

After completion of the project, expected in 30 months from the start of work, the canal's performance should improve by 10 per cent, and at least 24 million cubic metres of water, which is currently lost to underground leakage, is expected to be saved, according to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Hashem Shubul who was present at the signing ceremony.

the Jordanian government and a loan from the European Investment Bank.

On Monday Mr. Shubul signed a JD 500,000 contract with a consultancy firm to supervise the implementation of the project and noted in a statement that the King Abdullah Canal irrigates more than 80 per cent of the farm lands in the Jordan Valley totalling 270,000 dunams.

He said the 30-year-old canal required extensive maintenance which is not available through the JVA, hence the contract for overhauling the entire canal.

The announcement followed Monday's signing of a contract between the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and an Italian firm to raise the walls of the Kafrein Dam seven metres in order to boost its storage capacity from 4.8 mcm to 7.1 mcm.

The water minister, who signed the deal, said in a statement that the contract would be financed by the project would be financed by

the project in 20 months.

The project will be financed by the Jordanian Treasury and a loan from the European Investment Bank, added the minister.

The project also entails measures to stop the leakage of water from the reservoir, a study of the sediments accumulating at the bottom and means of reducing them, said the minister.

Since its construction in 1968, the Kafrein Dam's storage capacity has been on the decline and currently stands at 2.5 mcm, down from an original of 4.8 mcm as a result of residues at the reservoir's bottom, explained Mr. Irshaidat.

The project aims at raising the dam's walls to a height of 37 metres, thus raising its rain water storage capacity for irrigation.

Nearly 75 per cent of the 16,000 dunams of farmlands near the Kafrein Dam depend on its water for irrigation, especially during the summer.



Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf

Jordan stresses need to join World Trade Organisation

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva, Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, Tuesday stressed the need for Jordan to join the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) which will be founded on Jan. 1.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Sharif Sharaf said the new organisation will be the third major pillar of the world economy, after World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He noted that large, medium and small-size countries are competing to find a foothold for themselves in the new international trade order, which has emerged in the aftermath of six-years of lengthy discussions in Uruguay.

Sharif Sharaf said however, that though the new economic order is not an ideal of fair one, particularly for the developing world if measured by the "right and wrong measure."

However, he said, it is a

trade order that no state can afford to oppose or choose to stay outside of, because that would lead to further economic isolation.

Sharif Sharaf noted that Jordan's democratic march and political pluralism have not been matched by any significant breakthroughs in the economic field.

He added that Jordan is passing through a new economic era that will be shaped by new economic policies that include market economy, economic freedoms, and the weakening of government's role in running the economy, in addition to the lifting of economic and trade barriers.

Asked about the fate of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Sharif Sharaf said GATT will dwindle by the end of this year, when the new World Trade Organisation will be established.

He noted that a limited number of the very poor countries who cannot join the new organisation will continue to be on the GATT membership roster.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Nepal, Ivory Coast and Finland

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent two cables to King Bhumi-Aduladej of Nepal and President Felix Houphouet Boigny of the Ivory Coast congratulating them on their national days and wishing them continued good health and happiness and their respective peoples further progress and prosperity. The King also sent a similar cable to President Mauno Koivisto of Finland, congratulating him on his country's independence day and wishing him continued

Princess Basma opens QAF exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday opened the annual exhibition of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) which displays handicrafts and rugs produced by QAF's income generating projects aiming to provide job opportunities to the unemployed and support the incomes of needy families.



HERITAGE THROUGH CERAMICS: Her Shaker at Abaad Art Gallery. The two-Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah week exhibition includes ceramics and Tuesday opens an exhibition of ceramic murals depicting Arab heritage themes in art works by Iraqi artist Akram Naji modern techniques (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ Film entitled "First Among Equals" (Part I) at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

CHOIR CONCERT

★ Choir concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "The Arab Economy in the Peace Era" by Dr. Samir Maqdisi of Lebanon at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Salman Abbas at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of abstract by several artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of Muna Saudi's private collection of contemporary arts and Jordanian antiques at Abdoun Village.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Sadik Kwaish at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Akram Naji Shaker at Ab'aad Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 669348).
- ★ Exhibition by artists Latif Al Khateeb and Muhy Khateeb at the Housing Bank Gallery.

Netanyahu visit

(Continued from page 1)

Earlier the King said that Jordan was following the situation in Gaza with concern and "our message is, as it has always been, and that is we hope that our brethren remain united and hope that they will manage to (overcome this obstacle) and there should be a change in the quality of life."

Commenting on the visit by Mr. Netanyahu, observers said that Jordan was keen on maintaining good relations with all the Israeli parties, especially that the Likud may

take over government in the next election.

According to an opinion poll released Tuesday in Israel, Mr. Netanyahu would edge out Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin if elections were held today.

The opposition leader would garner 44 per cent support compared to Mr. Rabin's 42 per cent, the Dahaf Poll Institute found. The next Israeli prime minister is due to be elected directly for the first time in general elections scheduled for November 1996.

The German Speaking Ladies CHRISTMAS BAZAAR supported by Lufthansa

will be on Friday 9th Dec. 1994 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Amman Marriott Hotel. Entry fee 1 JD, Children free

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Slovakian trade minister ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Slovakian Minister of Economy and Trade Peter Mafvafi Tuesday concluded a several day visit to Jordan by holding talks with the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa and association members on prospects of trade between the Slovak Republic and Jordan.

In outlining the JBA role in stimulating the Jordanian economy, Mr. Tabbaa said

that having a central geographical location, Jordan can play a key role in Middle East trade especially in the peace era and can promote its trade with countries in eastern as well as western Europe.

Mr. Mafvafi spoke about his country's economic transformation into the free market economy, saying that 33,000 industrial firms have been converted into private sector concerns accounting

for 94 per cent of the total industry in the country.

Mr. Tabbaa called for the creation of a Jordanian-Slovakian business council to oversee promotion of trade exchanges and joint investment projects.

Mr. Mafvafi, who held talks with Jordanian officials and the business community and toured industrial centres over the past three days, left for home Tuesday.



KLM
ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES

WELCOMES JORDAN'S
DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS

HER MAJESTY QUEEN BEATRIX OF THE
NETHERLANDS AND HIS ROYAL
HIGHNESS PRINCE CLAUS.
GUESTS OF
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Milan graft-buster resigns

MILAN, Italy (Agencies) — Leading anti-corruption magistrate Antonio Di Pietro, who has led Italy's almost three-year old "clean hands" investigation, announced his resignation Tuesday saying he was leaving the judiciary.

The prosecutor's office in the northern city did not say whether the resignation of the popular judge had been accepted.

"I am giving up as a magistrate with a heavy heart, and with no prospects for my future," Mr. Di Pietro said in a statement read by a RAI Television journalist outside the Milan courthouse.

Reports that his resignation was imminent, because of accusations by supporters of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of bias in the anti-corruption drive, drove down the value of the lira Tuesday.

The Milan share index also fell 2.4 per cent following the announcement.

Mr. Di Pietro said he "felt used" in the conflict that had broken out between the judges and Mr. Berlusconi's right-wing coalition government.

The statement said he was quitting "to depersonalise the Mani Pulite (clean hands) investigation," referring to "distortions which fed conflict in the country."

Earlier Tuesday newspapers carried banner headlines saying that the man credited with doing more than any other to topple the country's graft-tainted political old

guard was considering leaving the "clean hands" (mani pulite) team, wearied by continued clashes with the government.

"Di Pietro on the brink of resignation," ran the front page headline in the respected Milan daily Corriere Della Sera.

But the magistrate refused all comment.

He brusquely waved away journalists who tried to approach him as he headed for the Milan court house where Italy's Enimont trial, the so-called mother of all corruption trials, was nearing its end.

"Leave me in peace," replied an angry Di Pietro. He is prosecuting in the case, involving millions of dollars of bribes allegedly paid out by the Ferruzzi group for political favours.

The head of the Milan team, Chief Prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borrelli, was equally tightlipped, sending his assistants to tell journalists to "wait and see."

Relations with the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who is himself under investigation in a graft probe, have long been tense.

The centre-right government was forced into a humiliating about-turn. In July, just two months after taking office, when Milan magistrates, including Mr. Di Pietro, threatened to resign over a proposed law that would have limited their powers to arrest graft suspects.

Rumours had been rife for days that Mr. Di Pietro wanted to leave the prosecuting team after three gruelling years at the forefront of investigations into Italian corruption.

One of Mr. Berlusconi's television channels even interrupted its main news programme last Friday night to read out an "anonymous" tip that the hugely popular magistrate had written a letter of resignation.

But the talk surged afresh after the clean hands magistrates held a late-night meeting Monday at Milan's Palace of Justice.

The reports of a possible imminent resignation pushed share prices down on the Milan Bourse where investors were already on alert over signs of a deepening rift between Mr. Berlusconi and his government allies in the federalist Northern League.

Clashes between the government and the magistrates have intensified as the graft inquiries have increasingly focused on the billionaire prime minister's Fininvest media empire.

Mr. Berlusconi, whose brother Paolo is already a defendant in two other graft trials, has been summoned by magistrates for questioning in connection with allegations that Fininvest bribed tax police in return for lenient audits of company books.

The prime minister has fiercely attacked the judicial probe into his business

empire, calling it politically-inspired.

Milan's magistrates have in turn reacted angrily to a decision by the Justice Ministry to investigate their methods after complaints from some defendants that they had abused their powers, including the use of pre-trial custody.

A team of ministry-appointed inspectors last week wound up several days questioning leading members of the anti-graft team, including Mr. Di Pietro, and examining documents.

But the clashes over the Milan magistrature appear to have done nothing to dent



Milan prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro gestures while standing behind one of several computer screens during his final plea to the court in the

Enimont trial, in Milan, the most spectacular one to date in Italy's long-running "clean hands" corruption case (AFP photo)

Lloyd Webber has oesophagus operation

LONDON (R) — British composer Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber has been taken to hospital suffering from an oesophagus complaint, his spokesman said. The 46-year-old composer was admitted to hospital last Friday after returning from New York where his latest musical, Sunset Boulevard starring Glenn Close, opened to rave reviews.

Lloyd Webber, whose other blockbuster musical hits include Cats and Phantom Of The Opera, has to remain in hospital on an intravenous drip but is set to recover within several weeks. He is suffering from acute ulcerative oesophagitis apparently caused by treatment of another illness which has been recurring intermittently over the last few years.

He said in a statement: "I have been fighting the fact that I have been feeling pretty grim for the last few weeks but I feel much better now. It is just the case of sitting around with a tube in my arm until I can have my first consommé." Asking for the media not to bombard him and his wife Maureen with queries, he said: "I am told this is something only time and nature can heal, there really is nothing I can add."

It's a girl for Gloria Estefan

MIAMI (R) — Pop singer Gloria Estefan gave birth to her second child, and husband Emilio witnessed the delivery and cut the newborn's umbilical cord, hospital officials said. The couple named their new daughter Emily Marie, who weighed in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces (3.1 kg).

"We had to help him (Emilio Estefan) out for a few seconds there because he almost fainted. He was able to come back and cut the baby's cord," said Dr. Nidia Iglesias, the obstetrician who delivered the child. The baby girl was delivered by Caesarean section. Estefan immigrated to Miami as a child, and is one of the city's most well-known Cuban exiles.

Estefan, who sings in both English and Spanish, is one of Latin America's biggest recording stars. Her hits include Conga, Rhythm Is Our Game, Get On The Floor, For You, Always Tomorrow, and Coming Out Of The Dark.

Miss Saigon to overtake My Fair Lady

LONDON (R) — The Vietnam War musical Miss Saigon is set to topple the elegant My Fair Lady as the longest-running production at one of London's most famous theatres. The elegant Lerner and Loewe musical My Fair Lady, that helped turn Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews into stars, ran for 2,281 performances at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Miss Saigon is to top that figure on Dec. 19 and producer Cameron Mackintosh said he plans a late night performance of excerpts from My Fair Lady sung by Miss Saigon stars Jonathan Pryce and Lea Salonga. That will mean a long night for Pryce, who will be appearing earlier in the evening as the star of Oliver, the hit musical based on Charles Dickens' novel which is being revived in London later this week.

Bolshoi artistes cross with Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AFP) — The artistes of the prestigious Bolshoi Ballet are in open revolt against a decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin which they complain is a bid to impose outside management on them. Singers and dancers have threatened a strike for Thursday, hours before the curtain goes up on Giselle. The last strike was in 1989 and delayed the start of another ballet which then Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had come to see.

The Bolshoi theatre has been rivalled for years by internal rivalries. Mr. Yeltsin aggravated matters a couple of months ago by decreeing that the Bolshoi should have a collegial management of 15 persons. They would include the government's culture minister, the theatre's general manager and leading lights in the Russian artistic world.

It would be up to them to appoint the artistic and chief set designers. About 1,000 artistes, half the Bolshoi's personnel, spent two days last week discussing the issue in the faded setting of the auditorium with its wine-red plush velvet and gilt panelling.



Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi gestures as he speaks during a press conference in the Budapest Hilton Hotel (AFP photo)

Ruling SWAPO tipped to win Namibia elections

WINDHOEK (R) — Namibians go to the polls Wednesday for the first time since independence elections in 1990 and SWAPO, the former guerrilla group turned ruling party, is tipped to win a big victory.

Political analysts said the opposition was in disarray and had failed to unite in the four years since South African rule ended over the vast but largely empty desert territory.

SWAPO, which fought the South African Army for 23 years, is looking to secure the majority required for it to write a new constitution alone.

President Sam Nujoma is restricted from seeking a third term under the current charter, negotiated with opposition parties after the 1990 election.

Mr. Nujoma recently told supporters: "We must go for more than two-thirds majority. Our slogan from now is 75 seats, all for SWAPO."

SWAPO (the initials stood for South West Africa People's Organisation) holds 42 of 72 National Assembly

seats. The main opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) holds 21 seats.

Namibia is about twice the size of France but has an electorate of about 700,000 people. It is bounded by the Namib Desert and the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Kalahari Desert to the east.

Polls open at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) and close at 9 p.m. (1900 GMT) over Wednesday and Thursday. Results are expected by Saturday.

In an interview with Reuters, Mr. Nujoma said he and his colleagues would definitely change parts of the constitution.

"There are some clauses of the constitution which favour opposition parties and we might want to get rid of those," he said.

Political analysts say the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, which helped run Namibia during apartheid South Africa's colonial rule, had since independence produced no alternative policies nor shown any fighting spirit.



Teddy bear shatters record

LONDON — A small brown teddy bear belonging to the world's most noted collector was sold for £110,000 (\$171,500) at a London auction Monday, shattering the world record for a teddy which stood at £55,000 (\$85,770).

The bear, which was made in 1904 and is known in the toy world as "Teddy Girl," was bought by a Japanese collector who attended an auction at Christie's billed as the biggest teddy bear sale in history. It was the favourite bear of a British army colonel, Bob Henderson, who died in 1990 after building probably the world's biggest collection of teddies.

"I'm actually in shock, I'm just speechless," said his granddaughter Deirdre Henderson, 19, who she said to a good home. She has been loved by her grandfather for 169 years.

The tatty bear looks unremarkable but its sale reduced Deirdre's husband, Alan, to tears. "It was a very hard decision to actually let her go. We spent many nights debating it," he told reporters. The photograph shows Japanese toy maker Yoshihiro Sekiguchi holding his newly purchased bear. The new owner will put the bear in a toy museum near Tokyo (AFP photo)

3 strong quake aftershocks jolt California

LOS ANGELES (R) — Three strong aftershocks from the devastating Jan. 17 northridge earthquake jolted southern California Monday night, sowing panic in movie theatres and shopping malls but causing no damage or injuries.

The largest of the aftershocks, measuring 4.5 on the Richter Scale, was the most powerful in eight months from the magnitude-6.8 northridge quake, which killed 60 people, buckled freeways and caused an estimated \$20 billion in damage, seismologists said.

The quakes, which struck within minutes of each other, shook tall buildings, knocked items off shelves and rattled the nerves of residents who had thought the ground beneath their feet had finally stopped shaking.

The first quake, measuring 3.5, hit at 7:36 p.m. pst (3:35 GMT Tuesday) three miles east-northeast of San Fernando, a small town that lies about 20 miles northwest of Los Angeles and only a few miles from the origin of the Northridge quake, according to seismologists at the California Institute of Technology.

The second aftershock came at 7:48 p.m. pst (10:48 p.m. est) in almost the exact same spot in the sprawling, densely populated San Fernando Valley, the area hardest hit by the January quake.

A minute later, the strongest of the three quakes struck just a short distance away.

Irish elections loom as bid for new government fails

DUBLIN (AFP) — Efforts to form a new government in the Irish Republic foundered Tuesday and the prospect of general elections loomed large after fresh revelations in the scandal that toppled Albert Reynolds three weeks ago.

Hopes that parliament would approve a new Labour-Fianna Fail coalition late in the day were dashed when Labour leader Dick Spring, the outgoing foreign minister, stormed out of overnight talks with Bertie Ahern, Fianna Fail leader and acting finance minister.

And Mr. Ahern, who replaced Mr. Reynolds as party boss, said later he saw no chance of forming a new government with Labour, adding that there was no prospect of "rescuing" his talks with Mr. Spring.

Political sources said Mr.

Spring immediately began talking with opposition parties, raising the possibility a coalition might still be formed without Fianna Fail to avert elections that would otherwise take place early next year.

Mr. Spring was said to have bolted after fresh revelations concerning Mr. Reynolds's controversial appointment of Hary Whelehan as president of the High Court appeared to implicate other Fianna Fail ministers.

Labour had withdrawn from Mr. Reynolds's government in protest because Judge Whelehan, as attorney general, had delayed seven months in extraditing a pedophile priest to Northern Ireland, where he was convicted and jailed for sexually abusing children.

Mr. Reynolds at first back-

ed Judge Whelehan. But when it grew evident that the appointment was endangering his government, he told parliament Judge Whelehan had misled him over the handling of the priest's case, and he apologised.

But Mr. Spring refused to return to the cabinet, forcing Mr. Reynolds to resign, and Judge Whelehan quit hours later.

But according to a report in the Irish Times, Mr. Reynolds had asked Judge Whelehan to step down from the High Court post early in the controversy, and when Judge Whelehan refused to go, Mr. Reynolds went on to publicly endorse him.

Labour reportedly sees the latest twist as implicating other members of the Reynolds cabinet.

Mr. Ahern refused to be

drawn on the reports, saying only, "I have done nothing wrong and have nothing to hide."

Mr. Spring was reported to be dissatisfied with a report on the claims from current Attorney General Eoghan Fitzsimons which was given to Mr. Reynolds Monday in Budapest where he was attending a European security conference.

The report was played to Mr. Ahern, but only parts of it were passed on to Mr. Spring, according to the reports.

Former Minister Michael Noonan, a senior member of the largest opposition group, Fine Gael, said the Fianna Fail ministers had "collectively or individually misled parliament and as a consequence are no longer suitable for government."

U.S. Democrats issue counterplan to Republicans

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Centrist Democrats came out swinging Monday, launching their agenda for the next two years to counter the plan which catapulted the Republicans into the majority last month.

"We are alerting the Republicans that we are ready to engage them in hand-to-hand combat for every inch of ground on the battlefield of ideas," said Al From, president of the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC).

But the 10-point plan issued by the DLC, the group President Bill Clinton headed before his White House bid, matches several aspects of the Republican House members' "Contract for America."

Both call for social spending cuts and overhauling the housing and job training programmes. The DLC, however, said its plan was more progressive and did not call for the kinds of sanctions against the poor that the Republicans envisioned.

The Republicans have pledged to balance the budget while boosting military spending and cutting taxes. They have also called for putting welfare children in orphanages and cutting housing subsidies for the poor.

The DLC's plan is likely to come under fire from the Democratic National Committee executive body, Congress and the White House itself.

The DLC argues that Democrats should challenge the Republican promise to balance the budget by proposing cuts of at least 75 billion in federal subsidies for oil and gas industries, agribusiness and aerospace.

But congressional Democrats are likely to cut in sectors which have such powerful lobbying groups.

The DLC has also suggested raising the eligibility age for Social Security and Medicare and cutting off the wealthier recipients to balance the budget, but Mr. Clinton has vowed not to touch entitlements.

The plan of attack comes as Democrats are grappling with their stunning defeat in the Nov. 8 midterm elections which gave Republicans control of the House and the Senate for the first time in 40 years.

Party leaders are anxiously searching for direction which will lead them to a comeback by 1996.

Mr. From conceded that he may have trouble pushing the plan to other Democrats but said their defeat last month

may prompt some to rethink their positions.

Meanwhile, Newt Gingrich, chosen by Republicans Monday to be speaker of the House of Representatives, invoked Ronald Reagan, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill as he called for the remaking of American society.

The Georgia congressman, credited with paving the way for the November's election of the first Republican House in 40 years, was greeted by the chant of "Newt, Newt, Newt" after his nomination was approved by a thunderous "aye" during Republican leadership elections.

His formal accession to the nation's third-highest elective office will take place following election by the full House when Congress convenes on Jan. 4.

As parties struggle, reform movement stumbles in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — The New Frontier Party would like voters to believe it offers a fresh alternative to Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama's coalition.

But voters aren't convinced and it's not hard to see why.

The New Frontier Party, a union of nine opposition groups that will be formally launched Saturday, has spent the past week in a frenzy of old-style backroom manoeuvring to choose a leader.

The top candidates seem to be former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu or Tetsuo Hata, another ex-prime minister. To younger party legislators, it's a lot like old-style politics, where preserving face counted most and debate on issues barely counted at all.

"I think this is ridiculous," said Shigeru Ishiba, a 37-year-old New Frontier legislator to vote between Mr. Kaifu and Mr. Hata. "It's important to have a debate and then have each person decide with his vote who's best for the job."

The selection of the New

Frontier leader illustrates how little Japanese politics has advanced since the upheaval 18 months ago when voters toppled the Liberal Democrats from power for the first time since 1955.

After 10 months, the Liberal Democrats regained power in a coalition with Prime Minister Murayama's Socialists, now many analysts say the 70-year-old prime minister is less than eager to reform Japan's economy by cutting bureaucratic red tape, for example, or encouraging more creativity in education.

"The passion for carrying out reform is disappearing," says Terumasa Nakanishi, Shizuoka Prefectural University professor of politics. "It's become apparent that it's just a kind of power struggle going on."

Polls show voters have few expectations of the New Frontier Party but also are dissatisfied with the current ruling coalition.

Reluctantly the various parties that are joining the new party have been dissolving themselves in recent weeks; on Monday the Clean Government Party ended its 30-year history but, in a sign of its reluctance, kept its local legislators out of the New Frontier Party.

Quite a change from the summer of 1993 when a coalition led by reform-minded Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa took office.

Younger politicians were suddenly all over the airwaves, promising "kaikaku," or reform. Kaikaku meant less government bureaucracy, open markets, a crack-down on corruption. It promised worldly leaders who could deal easily with American presidents and European prime ministers.

Within six months Mr. Hosokawa had completed two of the biggest reforms: Opening Japan's rice market and passing anti-corruption laws including tougher campaign finance rules and a new election system.

But to more conservative Japanese, Kaikaku summoned up their worst nightmare of Western society: Unemployment, vicious winner-take-all economic competition, involvement in

murky conflicts abroad.

Soon reform stumbled. Mr. Hosokawa was forced to quit in April in a cloud of scandal over his personal finances. His successor, Mr. Hata, lasted just two months before the Liberal Democrats came back to power in June in coalition with their old rivals, the Socialists.

What makes Japanese politics so confusing these days is that no single party really represents reform, even though no party dares to publicly oppose reform.

The New Frontier Party talks about shaking up Japan's ruling circles by severing the corrupt links between bureaucrats, politicians and business. But it has offered few specifics.

has virtually disappeared.

Prime Minister Murayama, the leader of the Socialists, illustrates that point: in order to keep his coalition with the conservative Liberal Democrats stable, he abandoned all of the Socialists' left-leaning policies, such as opposition to Japan's military.

"Japan must appear truly strange to foreigners," said Mr. Ishiba in an interview. "Here we have a parliament that is totally incapable of debating defence issues or foreign policy."

Opposition leaders say they want a general election early next year, but Mr. Murayama has repeatedly said he does not intend to call elections any time soon.

The only immediate threat to the prime minister comes from rebels in his own Socialist Party, who want the party to dissolve itself and become a broader-based "liberal" third party that would give voters an option besides the Liberal Democrats and the New Frontier Party. But the movement has failed to pick up steam so far.

"At a stage when everyone is just talking about how they'll implement reforms, it's pretty hard to tell the difference," conceded the New Frontier Party's top strategist and power broker, Ichiro Ozawa, who at 52 is the youngest leading politician in Japan.

Real debate over policy



A Chechen soldier guards imprisoned Russian officers of the Kantemirovskaya Tank Division in Grozny. Around 70 Russian officers and soldiers who took part in the unsuccessful attack on

Grozny a week ago are still in Chechen prisons. Some of them have admitted that they were paid by the Russian Federal counterintelligence service to take part in the attack (AFP)

Chechen leader reportedly to free Russian troops

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Prominent liberal Russian politician Grigory Yavlinsky arrived in the breakaway region of Chechnya Tuesday to offer himself as a hostage in place of captured Russian soldiers.

His arrival came as Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev was quoted as saying he was ready to release all the Russian servicemen captured in fighting with Moscow-backed rebels.

A local reporter, contacted by telephone in the regional capital Grozny, quoted Mr. Dudayev as saying: "The Chechen Republic never used prisoners of war as tools of speculation. We still give them away and let them go."

No immediate confirmation of the report was available. Mr. Yavlinsky told Reuters his first aim was to take the Russian soldiers back to Moscow.

"Secondly, we want to become a guarantee for Chechnya against the beginning of (Moscow's) military offensive and thirdly we want to solve the crisis by political means," he added.

Tension between Moscow and Chechnya has been high since Nov. 29, when Russian President Boris Yeltsin threatened to impose a state of emergency on the mountainous area unless Mr. Dudayev and his opponents laid down their arms.

Mr. Yeltsin later retreated from that threat but Moscow is massing troops along the Chechen border. A lone Russian Air Force Sukhoi SU-27 fighter-bomber buzzed Grozny Tuesday in a reminder to Mr. Dudayev's supporters that Moscow rules the air space above Chechnya.

At least nine people were killed last week in bombing raids which Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev belatedly conceded were carried out by his forces.

Gen. Grachev met the head of the Moscow-backed opposition in Chechnya Tuesday as parliamentary deputies stepped up efforts to prevent bloodshed in the area.

Yevgeny Martynov, deputy head of a Moscow Information Centre set up to supply official information on the Chechen crisis, said Gen. Grachev met Umar Avturkhanov, who heads the Provisional Council opposition movement.

Mr. Avturkhanov said again he was willing to lay down his weapons and called for immediate free elections in the region. Mr. Martynov told a news conference.

But it is unlikely that Mr. Dudayev, who declared independence from Moscow in 1991, will follow suit. Mr. Dudayev has agreed on talks with Moscow "on equal terms" but he rejects any negotiations with the Provisional Council, which Moscow recognises as the legitimate Chechen government.

Gen. Grachev told ITAR-TASS news agency Monday that Mr. Yeltsin's powerful Security Council would take a final decision on whether to use force at its next meeting Thursday.

Deputies from the State Duma lower house of parliament have launched a number of initiatives to help defuse the crisis and ensure the return of the Russian soldiers.

But TASS news agency quoted Chechen Foreign Minister Shamsedin Yusuf as saying the hostage swap could not take place because Grozny did not consider the captured Russians hostages.

"We welcome the noble desire of Grigory Yavlinsky," Mr. Yusuf said. "But we are not going to keep him or anyone else hostage, even if they want to."

Sergei Yushenkov, who heads the Defence Committee in the State Duma lower house of parliament, was on his second mission to Chechnya Tuesday. He visited Chechnya last week and returned with two prisoners.

A delegation dispatched to Chechnya by ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy returned to Moscow with two more prisoners. Gen. Grachev flew to the North Caucasus mountain area Monday with Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and Sergei Stepashin, head of the counter-intelligence service, in what he said was a bid to bring the warring sides to the negotiating table.

If this attempt failed, he did "not rule out the declaration of a special form of government in Chechnya."

Russia's Federation Council upper house of parliament Tuesday opened a session on Chechnya by voting to summon Gen. Grachev, Mr. Yerin and Mr. Stepashin to report on the situation.

Bosnian Serbs take U.N. observers as 'human shields'

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs, talking and acting tougher than ever, held five U.N. observers as "human shields" to protect a Serb-held airport and demanded that NATO swear off any further strikes on Serb forces as a condition for allowing Sarajevo Airport to reopen, a U.N. spokesman said.

The moves came amid Western disarray over how to proceed in Bosnia-Herzegovina after fruitless efforts to end more than two years of warfare. The U.N. Protection Force is also facing unprecedented harassment on the ground in Bosnia, with U.N. spokesmen Tuesday saying more than 300 UNPROFOR personnel were having their freedom of movement severely restricted by the Bosnian Serb Army.

The five U.N. military observers were being used as "human shields" by Serbs near the airport of their stronghold of Banja Luka in northern Bosnia, U.N. spokesman Paul Risley in Zagreb said.

The situation recalled the Gulf War when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein took Western hostages to deter allied air strikes on strategic installations.

The military observers included a Jordanian with heart problems. The spokesman said UNPROFOR condemned "in the strongest terms the inhuman treatment of a sick

observer," and "protested today at the highest level in Pale to obtain their immediate release."

A U.N. source meanwhile said Tuesday the Bosnian Serbs had demanded an official undertaking from NATO not to strike Serb forces or missile sites in return for allowing the reopening of Sarajevo Airport, which has been closed for more than two weeks.

They also demanded that the NATO planes over Bosnia should not fly below 5,000 feet.

The U.N. source said the demands were put at a meeting Monday between Serb Deputy Army Commander General Milan Gvero and the chief of U.N. forces in Bosnia, General Michael Rose, in Jahorina, south of the capital.

He said Serb military officials had pledged to release the more than 300 U.N. personnel they were detaining, but this was "one of many times" that such a pledge had been made.

Pale Radio reported that Gen. Gvero had demanded guarantees from the highest U.N. levels that NATO planes would not act over Serb territory as a condition for further Serb cooperation with UNPROFOR.

Gen. Rose said he said he had stressed NATO's impartial role operating in support of the U.N. peacekeeping mission only to enforce U.N. resolutions.

U.N. officials have been seeking assurances for the safety of incoming aircraft at Sarajevo Airport following several incidents involving the activation of Serb missile systems.

U.N. civil affairs spokesman Thant Myint-U meanwhile said the humanitarian situation in the eastern enclaves of Gorazde, Zepa and Srebrenica was "extremely worrying."

The continuing role of the U.N. and its agencies in Bosnia has been under discussion by leaders of contributing nations in recent days, with both Britain and France warning they could soon withdraw their peacekeepers.

British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind was in Vitez, in central Bosnia, Tuesday to sound out opinion on the issue.

In Budapest, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe failed to agree to a joint statement on the Bosnian war. In a speech to the summit Monday, a bitter and exasperated Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic had accused the international community of failing to defend the Bosnian people.

In Geneva, foreign ministers from a seven-nation "contact group" on Bosnia set up by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference said Islamic countries would be willing to send troops to replace any Western troops that might decide to pull out of the U.N. peacekeeping contingent in Bosnia.

Bosnian Serbs Tuesday allowed through a U.N. convoy carrying desperate needed food and fuel for Srebrenica where starving people had started fighting over food, an aid official said.

"This is the first encouraging sign we got from the Bosnian Serbs in many weeks," Kris Janowski of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees told Reuters.

Mr. Janowski said the convoy had brought in 96 tonnes mostly of food, and one tanker of fuel.

"This is the first fuel reach Srebrenica in months," Mr. Janowski said. Russia said Tuesday it would send a group of major powers trying to broker peace in Bosnia was not giving Serbia enough relief from sanctions in exchange for Belgrade's support for ending the war.

Foreign Minister Andrej Kozirev told reporters that easing of U.N. sanctions: far amounted to "peanuts. The problem is that the contact group is not reciprocal... it's not giving anything to (Serbian President Slobodan) Milosevic."

Mr. Kozirev spoke after meeting British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at the margins of the European security summit.

Delors sparks new storm over EU federalism

PARIS (AFP) — Outgoing European Commission head Jacques Delors sparked a fresh storm over European federalism Tuesday, with critics renewing charges that he is putting EU power ahead of national interests, including French ones.

His comments were seized upon in particular by the French right and extreme left as ammunition to damage Mr. Delors' chances in French presidential elections next year, for which he is leading in opinion polls.

"In my view a federation is a strong power... I believe that the French nation exists," Mr. Delors has every right to think the opposite, or at least to wish it," said Pierre Mazeaud of the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR).

"Little by little we are seeing it (France) dissolve into a large federation," added the deputy, an influential figure in the centre-right coalition of Prime Minister

Edouard Balladur. Mr. Delors made his controversial comments, which echoed views expressed in the German magazine Der Spiegel last week, in an interview with the French financial daily Les Echos.

In particular he outlined his vision of a future "Federation of European States" which would include some 30 member states, saying the only alternative was declining European influence in the world.

"Either we will form into a grouping... with no political links, and we will no longer be able to maintain our place on the world stage," he said, calling such an eventuality "Outer Space Europe."

"Or, for those countries which want to go further, there will be another organisation, the Federation of European States... which will keep Europe's ambitions in the world intact."

Mr. Delors conceded that the word "federation" was "a little provocative," but said that he had to clarify his position, arguing that he was not for increased centralisation of power in Europe.

"The federal approach is one which guarantees the least centralisation of powers, and the greatest democratic control," he said, stressing that "federation" is not synonymous with abandoning sovereignty.

The French right was not alone in condemning Mr. Delors' comments, which came amid frantic speculation over whether the EU head will stand in the presidential ballots in April and May.

French Communist Party leader Robert Hue, himself a declared candidate, reacted to Mr. Delors' federalism comments in much the same way as the rightwing Mazeaud.

Mr. Hue told French radio that federalism "calls into question our national sovereignty," and said Delors' views "seems to me to have split off from the path of the progressives and of the left."

The comments also came amid continuing British disquiet within the French right which is divided over whether to support Mr. Balladur or RPR supreme Jacques Chirac.

Mr. Delors said Tuesday he has taken a decision as to whether he will stand in the French presidential ballot. Recent opinion polls have put him ahead of the two likely rightwing candidates Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac.

Asked in Budapest, where he was attending the summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), whether he had taken his decision, he replied "yes."

He has said twice in recent weeks that, if his decision not to stand, he will announce it before Christmas, in order for the French left to rally round an alternative candidate.

Bangladesh premier is given three weeks to meet opposition demands

DHAKA (AFP) — The Bangladesh opposition Tuesday gave Prime Minister Khaleda Zia three weeks to accept demands for elections under a neutral caretaker government, or face a parliamentary walkout by all opposition MPs.

"We are giving the government an ultimatum to accept our demand by Dec. 27, otherwise the opposition will resign en masse on Dec. 28," the main opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, announced at a rally marking the country's fourth Democracy Day.

Ms. Wajed's Awami League, the Muslim fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami and the Jatiya Party have already been boycotting parliament for the past nine months to push demands for fresh elections.

Ms. Wajed also announced a new programme of anti-government protests until the end of December, but relaxed plans for a 48-hour strike starting Wednesday.

Analysts said that if the opposition resigned from the 330-member national parliament, elected in 1991, the government could either hold by-elections or call for fresh polls early next year.

The opposition has refused to take part in elections under this government, saying any ballot is bound to be rigged.

Ms. Wajed's ultimatum comes after months of agitation by opposition groups that has often flared into violence, and failed attempt by the Commonwealth to mediate an end to Bangladesh's chronic political crisis.

Sri Lanka offers ceasefire to rebels

COLOMBO (AFP) — The Sri Lankan government Tuesday decided to offer a ceasefire to separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas in a bid to revive stalled peace talks ahead of a visit here by Pope John Paul II, defence sources said.

Sri Lanka's Security Council, headed by President Chandrika Kumaratunga, agreed to declare a truce with the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as soon as possible, the sources said.

"An announcement of a ceasefire could be made within a few days. The timing depends on how soon the government gets a response from the LTTE," a defence source who attended the meeting told AFP.

The government will communicate its decision immediately to the LTTE, probably through the International Committee of the Red Cross, the sources said, adding that Mrs. Kumaratunga was keen to revive the peace process.

She suspended peace talks with LTTE after the rebel group was implicated in the Oct. 24 bombing here of a presidential campaign rally, in which opposition leader Gamini Disanayake and 57 others were killed.

Colombo also decided to offer more concessions to Tamils living in the LTTE-held northern Jaffna peninsula and also open a land route to the embattled region through a strategic military base, the source said.

the mosque was razed by thousands of Hindu extremists on Dec. 6, 1992, sparking nationwide Hindu-Muslim clashes.

The Hindus claimed the mosque was built on the birthplace of their warrior god, Rama, and raised a makeshift temple dedicated to him on the rubble.

Groups of Muslims Tuesday held protest meetings and demonstrations in New Delhi, Bombay, the twin towns of Faizabad and Ayodhya and in the southern state of Kerala.

"Muslims hope and pray that the mosque will be rebuilt," said Mohammad Wasi Khan, a Muslim leader in Faizabad town, 525 kilometres (328 miles) east of New Delhi.

Some 4,000 police and paramilitary forces were deployed in Faizabad and Ayodhya as Muslims closed shops and businesses in response to a strike call.

denied by Mr. Rao on Dec. 7, 1992 and he promised — in a National Day address eight months later — to rebuild the mosque, opposition leaders charged in a memorandum.

Mr. Singh's call was echoed by Sayed Ahmad Bukhari, chief cleric of New Delhi's Jama Masjid, India's biggest mosque, who threatened to demand Mr. Rao's resignation at another rally in the Indian capital.

Mr. Bukhari and several other Muslim politicians gave Mr. Rao a year to honour his pledge, saying they would press for his ouster if he failed.

"Rao should either fulfil his promise or quit," he said. "The battle is not between Hindus and Muslims, but against the Rao government."

Muslims number more than 120 million in India and are its largest minority. Meanwhile, some 3,000 Hindus went on a noisy march to Ayodhya, where

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Challenge before the bench

THE CRUX of the problem facing the judicial branch of government these days centres on the performance of the higher judicial council in past years and the extent of its independence from the executive branch. This council happens to occupy centre stage in the entire judicial functioning of the country since it, and it alone, has the mandate to appoint, promote and retire judges. It goes without saying that the independence and integrity of the judiciary in any given government is one of the most enshrined and religiously defended pillars of modern statehood. The Jordanian Constitution, like practically all constitutions worldwide, stipulates in the clearest terms that the judicial function of government shall be independent and free of any whims or dictates by other executive or legislative estates. As a matter of fact, Jordan has always prided itself in observing the law through a truly independent court system thanks to a highly responsible judicial council composed of ten high-ranking judges and officials and headed by the president of the Court of Cassation. The record of this council has been impeccable throughout the years with nothing really to blemish its reputation or integrity.

The problem that occurred of late within and about the judiciary was offset by a series of resignations and retirements among the most senior members of the court system, including some who were key members of the judicial council itself. That naturally gave rise to speculation about the independence of the council, especially when the former president of the council, Court of Cassation Chief Justice Ali Al Na'ssan, submitted his resignation, and his retirement from office was followed by other resignations from the Court of Cassation's bench. A closer look, however, might not reveal any irregularities since the decisions in question were taken by the council itself. Most of the judges involved were entitled to retirement anyway for one reason or another.

The controversy remains because of the composition of the council and the built-in ability of the executive to pull some strings through members who are either directly associated with the Ministry of Justice, such as the secretary general of the ministry, or because of the prerogatives of the minister of justice himself to second judges of his choosing to fill vacancies for ad hoc members of the highly powerful council. The odd thing about the existing practice within the judicial council is the ability even of its most junior members to put on its agenda a variety of issues including the retirement of the president of the council himself. Adding insult to injury is the automatic exclusion of any member of the council, including its president, from the deliberations when his retirement is put on the agenda.

This is where the problem lies and where rectifying measures need to be introduced. In the final analysis, the judicial council's independence needs to be further enhanced and consolidated to prevent any encroachment on it by any direct or indirect means. This could be attained by further streamlining the council's membership and reducing it to the seven most senior and functioning judges enjoying lifetime tenure and the exclusion, at the same time, of any official associated with the executive from its membership.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday backed Egypt's drive to ensure that Israel complies with U.N. resolutions and respect international laws by ending its nuclear programme. Mahmoud Rimawi said that Egypt, which reached a peace treaty with Israel at Camp David, has the right to demand that Tel Aviv take measures designed to ensure the sustainability of peace and security with its neighbours. Likewise, Damascus is right to demand a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Heights in return for a complete peace with the Jewish state, said the writer. Syria does not want to usurp other parties' rights, but it is rather holding on to its own right and its own lands usurped by Israel in 1967, he noted. There can be no justification for Israel to continue its occupation of other countries' lands in defiance of U.N. resolutions or to defy the international laws concerning mass destruction weapons, he stressed. The writer said that Israel should not be given a reward for its aggression and has to give up the occupied Arab land in exchange for a lasting peace with the Arabs.

MOHAMMAD SUBEIH, a writer in Al Dustour, expressed belief that the government, which has successfully concluded a peace treaty with Israel, is now facing a number of chronic issues that require drastic solutions. Among these issues, said the writer, is the continual confrontation between government and Parliament, which has caused the delay of progress in implementing laws related to domestic affairs. Some deputies have personal ambitions and others hold on to ideologies that conflict with the government's own policy and the government has to tread very carefully lest it should anger the House members to an extent that they give a no confidence vote in the government, said the writer. Furthermore, the peace treaty with Israel, which was hoped to open the door for improved relations with the Arab states, has not achieved the aspired purpose, added the writer. All these issues are facing the government at a time when nothing has been successfully done to deal with the socio-economic ills that require immediate attention, said Subeih. He said perhaps the new stage requires a new government and a stronger Parliament where all groups are represented.

WASHINGTON WATCH

American Jews, Republicans and Middle East peace

By Dr. James Zogby

WHEN ASSESSING the role of the American Jewish community will play in lobbying the next Congress, surface numbers can be misleading. The contributions of pro-Israel political actions committees (PACs), for example, are way down. From a high in 1988 of \$4.6 million, the total contributions have fallen to \$1.2 million this year. The number of Jewish members of Congress dropped this year from 10 senators and 32 congressmen in the last Congress to 9 senators and 32 congressmen in the next.

And while the liberal social agenda shared by most American Jews is threatened in the hands of the new conservative-led Congress, the new Congress will also be more stridently pro-Israel (if that can be believed) than in the past. It is in this context that the Jewish community is actively debating the effects of the 1994 congressional elections on their ability to pursue their agenda in 1995-96.

Historically, the overwhelming majority of the Jewish community has voted for Democrats, and this past election was no exception. While the national vote was split evenly (50 per cent to 50 per cent) between the Democratic and Republican parties (due to the fact that several Democratic incumbents won by large margins, while many Republican victors won by narrow margins), the Jewish vote on the other hand went 78 per cent for the Democrats.

The American Jewish community has been aligned with the Democratic Party largely because of the party's social agenda: social liberalism, a commitment to civil rights, feminism, abortion rights, a redistributive tax policy and the separation of church and state—all are major domestic concerns of the Jewish community. Many American Jewish leaders are now worried that progress already achieved on these issues may be rolled back and new progress made impossible by the more conservative leadership recently elected to Congress.

Indeed, the early initiative calling for a constitutional amendment supporting prayer in the U.S. public school system has caused great concern among liberal Jews (and many liberal Protestant Christian denominations, as well). They fear that such an amendment would erode the separation religion and the state which small religious minorities see as an important protection of their rights.

But while liberal Jews have historically led the community, there is a vocal and increasingly active minority of conservative Orthodox Jews who have become organised against this liberal agenda—and are now voting Republican and creating a deep fissure within the American Jewish community.

In the past, both the dominant liberal and minority conservative wings of the Jewish community were at least united on issues of foreign policy; but now, in the face of a Labour government in Israel that has made some peace with the Palestinians, there is even a rift on that question.

The more liberal Jewish leadership maintains that they have no problem with the Republican sweep of the November elections. They note a history of strong bipartisan support for Israel and its policies, and make brave public comments to that effect. An AIPAC leader recently noted, "these guys are all friends of Israel." But in private, these same liberal Jewish leaders express a fear that the newly elevated conservative Republican leadership in Washington and their conservative supporters in the Jewish community do not share their support for the Labour government of Israel or for the basic tenets of the peace process itself.

The Democrats who ruled Congress for 40 years consistently supported Israel, that is, whatever Israeli government was in power. A times, Congress would pursue the Israeli government's agenda even when it directly challenged the policy of U.S. administration. Congress would take these actions at the behest of the powerful pro-Israel lobby which either supported their election campaigns or

threatened to work against their reelections.

More often than not, the scene on Washington was one of Congress pushing and the administration seeking to restrain excessive congressional action—on Jerusalem on restricting arms sales to Arab countries, or on denying aid to Arab countries—with successive administrations feeling quite threatened by this congressional pressure. It is this interplay that has often shaped the Middle East policy debate in the United States.

With the Republican takeover, this dynamic will be somewhat altered. There will not only be new player in leadership roles, but these new leaders in the House and Senate are driven by ideologies which are more stridently pro-Israel than their predecessors, though not necessarily tied to the Israeli government in power.

Some pro-Israel lobbyists (both liberal and conservative) are celebrating the diminished roles of some of Israel's Democratic names in Congress. No longer will Israeli policy be questioned by such Democratic committee chairman as Congressman Lee Hamilton (outgoing chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee), congressman David Obey (outgoing chairman of the House Appropriations Committee), Senator Patrick Leahy (outgoing chairman of the Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee), and House Majority Whip David Bonior. All these Democrats were strongly opposed to Israeli settlement policies and, while not supported by the majority of their own party, they were frequently able to act as a thorn in Israel's side.

Replacing this Democratic leadership will be congressman Newt Gingrich (the new speaker for the House who only last month cosponsored a letter to President Clinton that opposed administration actions which—in accordance with the Israel-PLO declaration of principles—have treated the status of Jerusalem as undetermined and argued instead that all of Jerusalem should remain solely under Israeli sovereignty). Senator Mitch McConnell (incoming chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee who is also one of the largest recipients of pro-Israel PAC funds and holder of one of the most pro-Israel voting records in the Senate), Senator Arlen Specter (incoming chairman of the Technology and the Law Subcommittee and founder of the anti-peace process "monitoring committee" in the Senate), Senator Robert Packwood (incoming chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the most pro-Israel member of either House or Congress) and Senator Jesse Helms (incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee).

The two most central forces driving the Middle East policy debate in the Republican Party today are the neoconservatives and Christian right wing. Both of these groups, while strongly allied to former President Reagan, were opponents of President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker. These two forces, for different reasons, have a narrow Israel-centred view of the Middle East and are more strongly allied with the position of the Likud than with that of the Labour Party of Prime Minister Rabin.

As a group, they exert real pressure on the White House on a number of Middle East-related issues—and not only because they are Republicans who will be able to obstruct the foreign policy of a Democratic president, but also because they are not committed to supporting the Labour government in Israel.

Senator Helms, for example, while questioning foreign aid in general (he likened it to pouring money down "foreign rat holes") had the following to say to Tamara Rabinovich, the Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. in a meeting just two weeks ago:

"If Israel hadn't existed in the Middle East it would have had to be invented, because the United States could have found itself in sad shape. Anyone who wants to understand

Israel's importance to the United States needs to figure out how much the defence of the region would have rested in the Pentagon's budget without it."

In the Gingrich letter to the president, Jerusalem was described in the following way:

"Jerusalem is Israel's capital—and only Israel's capital—and that it must remain a united city under Israeli sovereignty... we support the action taken by the U.S. Congress to prohibit any new offices or official meetings in Jerusalem to deal with the Palestinian Authority. Jerusalem is the capital of only one country, Israel, and we urge you to implement a policy that does not in any way support a Palestinian claim to the city."

And Senator Specter's Peace Accords' Monitoring Committee (PAM), whose creation was opposed by the Rabin government, succeeded in conditioning U.S. aid to the Palestinians and passing other legislation that attempts to tie the hands of the administration with regard to Palestinian aid and to dealing with Palestinians in the city of Jerusalem.

Not only are the Democrats down on the Hill, but the more traditional pro-Israel lobby American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) may also be negatively affected by the fall elections.

AIPAC has always played by the rules traditionally accepted by the mainstream of the American Jewish community—they support whatever Israeli government is in office. Since the start of the peace process, AIPAC has been challenged by an upstart group, the Zionist Organisation of America (ZOA) which, in violation of the above-mentioned rule, has severely criticised the Labour government policies and pushed its allies in Congress to criticise or encumber the peace process with negative legislation.

While AIPAC has stated that they are confident that they can work with the new Congress, most analysts of the American Jewish community feel that the ZOA's star is rising on Capitol Hill.

Already ZOA President Mort Klein has expressed his strong support for Senator Jesse Helms Mr. Helms has joined the ZOA-sponsored PAM committee which the outgoing chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Democratic Senator Claiborn Pell, refused to join, and he is extremely pleased that two of his strongest allies Senators Specter and Shelby (a former Democrat who recently switched to the Republican Party) will be a strong position to carry out his group's agenda.

In short, the final assessment of the impact of the Republican takeover on the Jewish community is mixed:

— The liberal Jewish social agenda will be threatened;

— The liberal-conservative split within the American Jewish community will deepen;

— The newly organised (and even radicalised) Orthodox Jewish community will become a force with which others will be forced to contend in U.S. politics;

— American Jews will no longer be regarded as monolithically liberal Democrats;

— Pro-Israel PAC money and individual contributions to candidates, while still an important factor in elections, will not play as powerful a role as it has in the past.

With neo-conservatives and Christian fundamentalist ideology is a more significant factor in their pro-Israel stance.

The peace process, as it is presently constructed, will face real challenges because the next Congress will not be inclined to give either the Democratic president or the Labour government of Israel an opportunity for a new ceremony on the White House lawn before 1996. Progress may still be made, but it will not be easy.

The results of the elections pose new difficulties to an already encumbered peace process.

The pan-Arab project — where to?

By Jamal Shaer

If a European were asked a 100 years ago about his predictions on the future of the continent it is highly unlikely that he would have foreseen a unified Europe. But if one asked a Frenchman, British or German the same question 10 years ago, most probably the answer would have been forecasting a situation familiar to the one witnessed today.

This corresponds entirely to the situation in the Arab World. Most probably it never occurred to the mind of the pan-Arabist living towards the end of the last century that the Arab World would go the way it has. But if an Egyptian, Moroccan, Syrian, Gulf Arab, Iraqi, Palestinian or Jordanian national were asked 10 years ago about the direction the Arab World would take, the prediction would not have been far from what is happening now.

But what about the future? What is going to happen, in the next 10 years, to the Arab World or to what has come to be called the pan-Arab national project?

What is this project in the first place?

What is it based on?

What are its elements?

What are the possibilities of achieving at least some of its objectives?

In the last book written by the late (historian and writer) Albert Hourani about the history of the Arabs, which was more of an analysis and conclusions than a narrative and which was the product of more than 50 years of studies and teaching history at the best American universities and participation in Arab and international seminars. Hourani concluded that: "Arabism was always a culture and social identity that could not express itself politically throughout history and will not, most probably, do so in the future."

In my youth I understood the pan-Arab project to mean one thing: there is one Arab homeland, with one Arab Nation that inevitably would become one political entity.

No doubt this project,

whether an ideology or an indisputable fact, was based on our minds first and foremost on the existence in this world of a region which has a number of people speaking the Arabic language. This description might seem very simplistic, or as some would say arbitrary, since it ignores other facts that are more deeply rooted in history and genuinely related to the future.

But after 100 years, and as we stand now on the threshold of a new century which will bring with it many changes in the fields of knowledge, morals and probably new human relations, we should pause to review the elements of the pan-Arab project and the concepts and goals related to it. This attempt might raise several questions as well as stir some controversies, but it has to be done.

To begin with, we have to admit that the pan-Arab project is merely a political idea, not tantamount to a religious belief.

In its incipient stage, this project sought to affirm an Arab identity as part of the Islamic group by the Ottomans. After the project passed through various stages during which additional objectives, other than unity, appeared, as did social concepts and manifestations that were part of the essence of the project, it now faces major questions.

If we put Hourani's conclusions aside and speak of Arab unity, we wonder, what form it should take: confederation, federation or merger. Then, should we propose a comprehensive unity of all Arab states or should we encourage possible bilateral and trilateral (unity) projects.

Does the unity slogan include countries like Somalia and Djibouti?

And where is Israel's place in all these circumstances?

When unity was proposed in the mid 1940s, it was linked to the socialist unity slogan. And when the first constitution of the Arab Socialist Baath Party was issued, it spoke of parliamentary rule. Then this was amended in the interest of the party in power in any given Arab state.

The question also arises about the relationship between the pan-Arab project and Islam as an identity and a governing theory. No doubt, most, if not all, of us, have heard of the Arab *nahda* (renaissance) project which had as targets unity, social justice, independence from the occupier, democracy, development and progress. At the same time, we must have heard of the Islamic renaissance project which aimed

to start within the borders of the Arab World. Now the talk is about a new Middle East regional project, which would include not only Turkey, and possibly Iran, but also Israel.

What are the mechanisms to achieve the pan-Arab project? And what are the obstacles facing it, especially today, after the Gulf war and reconciliation with Israel and the steps leading to the settlement of the Palestinian question which has been the main focus of the pan-Arab project since the middle of the 1940s?

Let us attempt to list the powers and features that will positively or negatively govern the pan-Arab project during the coming 10 years. We think that these are represented by:

Arab regimes: resources and prospects for integration: international powers; and intellectual, factors availability of institutions; international intellectual trends.

Arab regimes, resources and prospects for integration

Astonishing facts were published recently about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Its expenditure in the Gulf war totalled \$55 billion and it will have to pay the bills for the forces and arms rushed to it after the Iraqi military build-up on the Kuwaiti border (in 1990).

Saudi Arabia has used all its reserves, and its debts are estimated at \$100 billion; its annual deficit is \$20 billion. Still it has recently concluded a \$30 billion arms deal with the West.

All this has prompted the American treasury secretary to come to Saudi Arabia with a scathing report calling on the state to control its expenditures to be able to shoulder its responsibilities. To make the situation and the American position look better, they talked of human rights and the need to take steps on the way to openness.

All this aims to protect the royal family and the interests of the U.S. in Saudi Arabia and around it. If we compare this to the rest of the Gulf region, we will find similar situations. The regimes of Iraq, Syria, Libya and Algeria, which have different capabilities, ranging from medium to large, did not have better achievements during the past two decades. These are all dictatorships whose main purpose is to protect the ruler from his people. From the other Arab ruler, be he traditional or revolutionary, and from international war.

This does not mean that the

situation is any better in many of the less wealthy states or those which are more open in viewing the priorities of the ruler or his clique, which reflects on the possibility of being satisfied with any national rule, be it military, limited parliamentary, or partnership between a monarchy and a parliament, an army and a parliament or a factional authority and a parliament. Such a situation exists in Yemen, Tunisia and Somalia, among others.

Consequently, we find the current confederation, which is the Arab League, completely lacking vitality, as does the pan-Arab project proposed by the revolutionary pan-Arab movement which was allied with a unique leadership, and has failed.

It is impossible for us to claim that the unified independent Arab state project led by the pan-Arab movement in Syria and Lebanon, and later by Al Hussein Ben Ali who included also Iraq, Syria and the Arab Peninsula, if the project had any chance to succeed.

International powers

The international forces were interested in our region since the dawn of the modern history. No one can deny that the international forces are still interested in the Arab World, and that this interest is served by keeping the Arab World divided and weak so as to plunder its resources, keep it as a market for them and prevent it from competing with them in case it unifies and gains strength.

That does not mean that the Arabs surrender to this imposed fact. We have a great example in our history, in Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him, who managed to unify the Arab land and nation and to defeat the Romans and Persians...

It is true that Mohammad Ali Pasha's power failed because of international forces and it is also true that these forces were behind the failure of the Syrian-Egyptian unity, but a true leadership is one that benefits from the lessons of history, knows how to make external factors work for it and at the same time does not disregard the internal factors that are often inherent in the leadership itself, in addition to other objective factors.

Social and intellectual factors

When we say social factors, it is very important to view them as they are not as we wish them to be. If we take the Jordanian arena for example, we find that the tribe constitutes a social power that cannot be underestimated

in any matter. So is the religious belief. Other than these two basic factors, we can list labourers, economists, professionals, civil servants, civilians, the military, and so on.

No doubt, there is an interrelationship between these forces as those holding on to tribal values might also be guided by religion, and thus listen to their companions in prayers, or might be army personnel, labourers, professionals or businessmen.

If we examine what happened in our arena over the past five years, and take for example the parliamentary elections, amendments to the election law, the position on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and other major issues, we can detect the importance of social forces.

Many of the field studies conducted recently concluded that the trends of registered voters were divided as follows: The traditionally organised political parties enjoy the support of nine per cent of the voters, religious forces enjoy the support of 5.5 per cent and all the modernist powers are supported by 2 per cent. This demonstrates the weak influence of the political and intellectual trends and shows that the strongest remain the tradition and the religious tendency.

Institutions

Several intellectual institutions are operating in the Arab arena, as are several Arab labour and professional unions and more recently the youth and women's associations, and others.

The Arab National Conference was set up in 1990 and we know about the Arab human rights organisation and the federation of Arab/Afro Asian friendship societies and so on.

In my belief all these have their role... and will gain momentum if there are clear guidelines and a clear leadership of the pan-Arab project, if there is the possibility that the project can be revived.

International intellectual trends

If we look at the stages of Arab thought over the past 100 years, we find that it was always influenced by international changes affecting one generation after another. The prevalent values towards the end of the last century witnessed many changes, some of them vital.

The Arabs have to live with the rest of the world; it is not permissible that they remain in the spectator's stand as history

passes them, as one of the writers commented in a thesis published in London five years ago.

My conclusion after five decades of continuous observation leads me to say that the only thing we can take for granted is that there is a large piece of land on which five millions of people speaking Arabic.

I was pleased that those responsible for this cultural programme we call "project" are holding discussions in preparation for it, as I believe that:

— The project that was proposed in the 1940s, with its two parts — the Arab League and the revolutionary pan-Arab movement — has failed.

— This region in which the Arabs are living should and can have a project based on two principles:

a- That the world today tends to group in larger blocs that can survive and the smaller political economic entities cannot survive.

b- The Arabs many federation unity features that are stronger than the bonds between the states of the U.S. or the European countries.

If I were given the chance to contribute to drafting such a project, my contribution would be based on parliamentary democracy, national and inter-Arab reconciliation and economic interests between a limited number of Arab countries or all Arab countries. Such a project should not be linked with any religious and social trends or conflicts between Arab and non-Arab parties, any unilateral views of a party or a distinct leadership...

I do not see any sign of hope for a serious project before national conditions in a reasonable number of Arab countries stabilise on democratic parliamentary basis. If I were to work in Jordan on a pan-Arab basis, I would implement the Jordanian Constitution in text and spirit, amend some of the articles added to it after 1957 and amend the rest of the articles at a later stage with the objective of having the parliament as the decision-maker. Only then the Parliament can enact a law, if the representatives of the people want, stipulating relinquishing national sovereignty for the sake of unity with another Arab country, a decision which should be taken by the representatives of the people only.

The above article is based on a lecture the writer delivered in Zarqa last month. Dr. Shaer is a former Cabinet member and long-time pan-Arab political activist. He is now director of Al Ahli Hospital.

مكتبة الامم

Israeli army wants more than 10% of West Bank

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army wants to maintain control of four zones on the West Bank even after a permanent settlement with the Palestinians, military radio reported Tuesday.

The zones, which do not include annexed East Jerusalem, are the minimum the army believes necessary to provide security.

Eighty per cent of the 120,000 Jewish settlers live within the zones which the radio identified as:

- a belt along the Jordan Valley,
- an area around the settlement of Maale Adoumim,

just east of Jerusalem, — the Gush Etzion block of settlements south of Bethlehem, — a block of settlements including Karnei Shomron and Ariel, northeast of Tel Aviv.

They would take in between 11 and 20 per cent of the 4,400 square kilometres of the West Bank, according to how much land was included in the Jordan Valley enclave.

The plan is for the final status of the occupied territories after the five-year interim period of autonomy which began in the Gaza

Strip and West Bank town of Jericho last May.

During the interim stage the army wants to hold on to a far greater area of the West Bank.

Israel and the PLO were set to begin negotiations on the next stage of autonomy later Tuesday in Cairo.

Under the autonomy agreement, Israeli troops are to pull out of built-up Palestinian areas of the West Bank to allow for elections, but the army fears exposing settlers.

Negotiations on the final settlement are scheduled to start by May 1996.

Christopher's tour is decisive — Syrian media

DAMASCUS (AFP) — As U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began a new shuttle between Syria and Israel Tuesday the official press here spoke of a "decisive juncture" in the troubled peace talks.

The English-language Syria Times described Christopher's visit as the "most important" this year but echoed other official dailies here saying Syria would not back down on its commitment for a comprehensive settlement.

The Syrian-Israeli peace talks have been deadlocked since February over the terms and extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights which were conquered in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

In the run-up to Mr. Christopher's tour Israel and Syria blamed each other for the stalemate, with President Hafez Al Assad insisting it was up to Israel to make the next move.

"The aim is to add momentum to the deadlocked negotiations between Syria and Israel," Syria Times said.

"The result, although unpredictable, is almost obvious: no immediate breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track as long as Israel holds fast to its already non-negotiable positions," the newspaper added.

"The U.S. has been actively engaged in this area for years. Now the process has reached a decisive juncture," Syria Times said.

Another official daily, Tishrin, squarely put the blame on Israel for the deadlocked talks accusing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of refusing Syria's "key condition" for peace — a Golan and South Lebanon withdrawal.

Peace will remain a "project on paper" as long as Israel failed to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions 242, 338 for a withdrawal from Arab land occupied in the 1967 war and 425 which demanded an immediate and unconditional pullout from South Lebanon, Tishrin said.

Mr. Christopher was to meet Assad before flying to Israel later Tuesday. He returns here on Thursday.

Meanwhile, an opinion poll in Israel showed that 60 per cent of those questioned opposed a full withdrawal from the heights while just over 23 per cent backed a total pullout.

It also showed that nearly seven out of 10 Israelis were against the stationing of U.S. troops on the Golan Heights to monitor any peace agreement.

Eritrea severs ties with Sudan

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Eritrea severed diplomatic relations with Sudan, accusing Khartoum of measures opposed to its peace, security and stability amid a row over cross-border raids.

Eritrean radio said on Tuesday diplomatic relations were cut from Monday evening despite Asmara's efforts to clear up what it said was a misunderstanding created by the Sudanese government.

Eritrea, which became independent from Ethiopia last year, accused Khartoum last month of training more than 400 "terrorists" since August to undermine its security and recruiting 300 more.

Sudan denied the accusation. Khartoum also charged Eritrea trained 300 Sudanese opposition fighters for cross-border raids.

The Red Sea state, which fought Ethiopia's government for three decades, earlier this year accused Sudan of supporting Islamic fundamentalist insurgents but said it had crushed them.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said ties were hampered by "negative measures being taken by the Islamic government of Sudan... opposed to the peace, security and stability the people of Eritrea are currently pursuing."

U.S. 'deeply concerned' over trial of Turkish MPs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department repeatedly has expressed its "deep concern" to Ankara over the trial of eight Kurdish members of the Turkish parliament, a spokeswoman said Monday.

The eight, who are accused of advocating Kurdish independence and maintaining ties to an outlawed separatist party, may be sentenced to death if found guilty by Turkey's state security court, spokeswoman Christine Shelley said.

"It's difficult for most foreign observers to understand how (parliamentary deputies) could be stripped of their immunity and put on trial for expressing their thoughts, including in some instances, thoughts expressed before the Helsinki commission of

the U.S. Congress," Ms. Shelley said.

"We have repeatedly expressed to the Turkish government our deep concern over the trials and their implications for democracy and freedom of expression in Turkey," she said at Monday's State Department briefing.

She said the State Department was continuing to press the issue with Ankara through diplomatic channels.

The court is expected to hand down its verdict on Thursday.

Turkey has been battling a bloody Kurdish insurgency in its eastern provinces for the past decade. Kurdish activists claim the Turkish army has razed 1,400 villages in its effort to stamp out the uprising, displacing some two million people.

Ankara has come under increasing pressure recently from the United States and Western Europe to improve its human rights record, which suffered greatly during the army's crackdown on the guerrillas.

In an impassioned letter published by The Washington Post Monday, Leyla Zana, one of the accused deputies, called on the West to intervene in the conflict, saying "Turkish extremism risks provoking a general catastrophe for both peoples and for the West."

"If Turkey's warlords assassinate hopes for the peaceful solution that we legislators represent, the road is open for Kurds to switch massively to the camp of violence and Islamic fundamentalism," she wrote.

Ethics in government: 'Corruption bankrupts nations'

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Corruption burdens economies, lessens a country's competitiveness in the international market and deprives its people of the benefits of external investment and the fruits of a free market economy, experts from different countries agreed Tuesday.

The experts, from Jordan, Lebanon, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, were participating in a Worldnet dialogue in English to discuss ethics in government and business via satellite television with Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics Stephen Potts and corporation ombudsman of Pitney Bowes Inc. David Nassif who spoke from a Washington studio.

"Cultural divides mean that there cannot be one set of laws to ensure governments and businesses are corruption free... but as all cultures recognise the importance of honesty, it is possible to establish common values," said Mr. Nassif.

The success of democracy and free market economies relies upon integrity and honesty within government and business.

"The principal driving force is a moral driving force. You can't have a successful democracy if people can't trust their government," said Mr. Nassif. He added that when that is the case the public would no longer depend on the ballot box but would turn to alternative methods to express their opinions and grievances.

He recommended that established rules, rather than rigid laws, should be implemented and monitored by employees who should be guaranteed the opportunity

to report inconsistencies in total confidentiality.

A Sri Lankan participant speaking from Colombo reported that in many developing countries the media, which is regarded worldwide as the voice of the people and the fourth estate, after the executive, the legislative and the judicial, is state controlled.

"The press needs to be free to expose problems and to provide a forum for public discussion," he said.

Speaking from Beirut another participant suggested that aid donors could correlate amounts donated in relation to corruption levels in recipient countries.

"The U.S. has not considered this as a policy but the World Bank has indicated that it may lay down rules of the road for ethical government practices," Mr. Potts reacted.

Bribery and perks lie either side of a narrow divide. "Is it ethical that high ranking officials, for example, are allowed to import duty free cars?" asked a participant from Pakistan.

"The more perks (presumably in number and value) that any employee receives sets a climate for unethical behaviour. With regard to free parking for officials I do not see this as unethical but it can lead to it," said Mr. Nassif.

The chairman of the Department of Public Administration at the University of Jordan, Mohammad Yaghi, asked whether corruption should be tackled through a group or specific individuals.

Dr. Yaghi asked: "How can we make individuals honest and trustworthy and how can we attack those responsible (for corruption)?"

Mr. Potts answered saying that emphasis should be

placed on the individual for whom a code of conduct should be laid down. Jordan's director of the Audit Bureau and member of the Royal Commission for Modernisation and Reform (RCMR), Abed Kharabseh, said that corruption negatively affects governments, institutions and administration, preventing proper application of laws.

Corruption, he said, leads to increased crime, reduction in public revenues and creates a "maldistribution of income and reduces economic growth rates."

He added that correct behaviour should be respected and encouraged with incentives, while punitive measures should be applied where incorrect behaviour is revealed.

After the Worldnet dialogue Dr. Kharabseh, who has been the director of the Audit Bureau for three years, told the Jordan Times that the bureau undertook its task "very seriously" and that he expected the government to regard the bureau's annual reports with equal seriousness.

"The government is trying to address the problems (highlighted by the bureau's annual report), but currently there are many issues to discuss and it's all a matter of priority," Dr. Kharabseh added.

As a member of the RCMR, which is chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who established it on Aug. 14, Dr. Kharabseh refuted accusations that it acted as a second government saying: "The Royal Commission is trying to find solutions to problems. It introduces those solutions to the government to help it face the new era by providing a suitable environment."

U.N. plans to step up aid convoys to Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The U.N. plans to step up aid convoys to the beleaguered Afghan capital after the success of getting its first relief consignment through in six months, U.N. sources said here Tuesday.

U.N. convoys had been suspended, unlike those of other aid agencies, because of the blockade to the east and south of Kabul by forces of former prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

A four-day ceasefire, agreed by the main Afghan factions, was to be implemented on Monday to allow the U.N. convoy to get through. It was also to let U.N. special envoy Sotirios Mousouris visit Kabul.

The 32-lorry convoy carried food, medical and food supplies and tents. It left Jalalabad, eastern Afghanistan, Monday morning and arrived in the centre of the capital where President Burhanuddin Rabbani is in control by mid-afternoon.

About half its consignment was immediately distributed. The other half will be distributed in areas controlled by Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami, U.N. sources said.

Roads in Afghanistan have been unsafe since the fall of the communist regime in April 1992 and the subsequent war between rival Afghan Mujahideen factions.

The main road between Kabul and Jalalabad towards the Pakistan border has been particularly dangerous. Several aid convoys have been looted and vehicles

stolen by armed gangs.

Other humanitarian organisations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, have continued to provide aid for Kabul's 800,000 inhabitants either by road or by air through the Bagram airport north of the Afghan capital.

Unlike the United Nations, which evacuated all expatriate personnel from Kabul on Jan. 8 when fighting between rival Afghan factions heightened, the ICRC has always maintained a significant expatriate presence.

U.N. officials said that following Monday's successful trip, other convoys to Kabul could now follow if security considerations permitted.

The convoy's arrival in Kabul coincides with the pending departure of Sotirios Mousouris from his post as the U.N. secretary-general's representative for humanitarian aid in Afghanistan.

He was scheduled to leave Islamabad for Kabul Tuesday to say goodbye to the leaders of the main Afghan factions.

Since Jan. 1 this year the war between factions fighting for control of Kabul has left more than 7,000 people dead and created hundreds of thousands of refugees, including 350,000 in U.N.-run camps near Jalalabad.

In addition to its humanitarian activity, the United Nations has also undertaken a political initiative to try to bring peace to Afghanistan. Former Tunisian foreign minister Mahmoud Mestiri is handling the mission which so far has failed to progress.

King accepts Hindawi's resignation

(Continued from page 1)

planning minister told the Cabinet that he had instructed the ministry's staff to draw up plans for specific projects that will enable Jordan to ask for aid from Europe. The minister explained that the step was necessary since Jordan could no longer expect direct government-to-government financial aid but rather to finance specific projects.

Mr. Hindawi was not available yesterday to explain his position, but, according to

different sources, he felt that the clear implications of the minister's words were that the government was not really sure that financial aid from Jordan was guaranteed after its signing of the peace treaty with Israel.

Parliamentary critics of Mr. Hindawi dismissed his objection as a pretext to justify his "pre-planned" resignation. The critics suggest that Mr. Hindawi employed what he saw as the government's "inability to fulfil

promises it made to the Jordanian people" to step up his "power struggle" with Dr. Majali.

Sympathisers with Mr. Hindawi, on the other hand, say he was expressing real concern that the government had been unnecessarily raising high expectations among Jordanians about post-peace prosperity.

Another colleague of Mr. Hindawi, minister of education Dr. Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, is said to have also expressed his disappointment after hearing the minister of planning's report.

When Mr. Rawabdeh was contacted by the Jordan Times yesterday he refused to make any comment on the affair but referred to Mr. Hindawi as "my respected colleague and teacher."

Mr. Rawabdeh will now automatically assume the role of deputy prime minister since he is the most senior member of Cabinet after Dr. Majali.

Mr. Hindawi enjoys considerable support among members of Parliament and he may decide to go public

with his criticism of the government.

His critics are sceptical of how Mr. Hindawi, who has shown that he could be an impeccable opponent of governments in the past, could possibly oppose a budget he had taken part in formulating.

It is unclear how Mr. Hindawi's resignation will affect his role in the Royal Commission for Modernisation and Reform that was once viewed as "a second Cabinet" when it was first formed.

According to one theory,

NEWS IN BRIEF

10 hanged in Iran for armed robbery

TEHRAN (AFP) — Ten people convicted of armed robbery have been hanged in southern Iran, Kayha newspaper reported Tuesday. The 10 were accused by revolutionary court in Bandar Abbas in Hormozga province, of robbery, extortion and arms smuggling. They were executed Monday. People convicted of armed robbery have been automatically handed the death penalty since 1989.

Japanese, Egyptian journalists killed in crash

NAIROBI (AFP) — Two Japanese journalists and a Egyptian cameraman were killed when their light aircraft crashed near the Kenyan capital Tuesday, along with the pilot and co-pilot, a Japanese spokesman said. The chartered plane, on its way to Goma, Zaire, crashed at 10:45 a.m. (0745 GMT) in the Ngong hills some 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) southwest of Nairobi, said Major Tsugumoro Komatsu, a Japanese air-lift operations officer. He named the two dead Japanese journalists as Hitoshi Numazawa, 36, the Nairobi bureau chief of the Kyodo news agency, and Toshihiko Irie, 32, of Fuji Television. I Tokyo, news reports said the Cairo bureau chief of Fuji Television was among the five people killed. Maj. Komatsu said he did not know the names of the Egyptian cameraman or the aircrew. The journalists had been on their way to eastern Zairean town to cover the pull-out of a 260-strong Japanese military contingent there which has been purifying lake water for Rwandan refugees in nearby camps. Eight Japanese doctors have also been working in Goma hospital.

Police raid paper after Algerian arms story

ZURICH (R) — Swiss police on Tuesday raided the office of a newspaper which carried a report, based on official documents, that militant Algerian Muslims have been buying weapons, ammunition and explosives in Switzerland. Urs Haldimann, editor designate of the Sonntags Zeitung, said three officers from the federal prosecutor's office and 12 from the Zurich Cantonal police were carrying out the search. Mr. Haldimann told Reuters the officers were trying to find out how the newspaper got hold of the documents, which came from the prosecutor's office but said he had no intention of handing the documents over voluntarily. Speaking at midday, he said the police had seized nothing after more than two hours in the building. The Sonntags Zeitung report last Sunday said documents from the federal prosecutor's office showed it had been monitoring the activities of Islamic fundamentalists said to be using Switzerland as a base to buy and ship arms to Algeria.

Saudis back plan to fight Islamic militants

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia supports a plan to fight Islamic militant groups which has been proposed by Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, and Turkey, officials said here Tuesday. The cabinet agreed here Monday it would "give its accord to the draft if it is approved by Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers meeting Saturday and Sunday in Casablanca, Morocco, they said.

Britain voices concern over shooting at diplomat

TEL AVIV (AFP) — London's Ambassador Andrew Burns expressed "concern" to the Israeli government Tuesday after a British diplomat had a narrow escape when Israeli soldiers opened fire on his car, a spokesman said. Mr. Burns went to the Foreign Ministry in occupied Jerusalem after his deputy cultural attaché Peter Morrison came under fire Saturday night. "We have raised concern about the incident, a British official was jeopardised," an embassy spokesman told AFP. As the attaché drove through the Nahal Oz crossing from the Gaza Strip to Israel, several army bullets smashed through the car's windshield. Israeli military officials said Mr. Morrison, of the British Council in East Jerusalem, apparently did not hear a shouted order to halt on a rainy night. Troops fired in the air and then at the car which had diplomatic plates, they said. The diplomat escaped unharmed.

Settlers prepare for Nobel protest in Oslo

JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli settlers are flying 50 "victims of terror" to Oslo to protest at the award Saturday of a Nobel Peace Prize to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, one of their leaders said. "We have filled a Boeing 747 with 500 Israeli victims of Palestinian terrorism," Aharon Domb, spokesman for the Jewish settlements, told AFP. "We want to remind Arafat that 101 Israelis have been murdered since the signing of the Declaration of Principles," for autonomy in September 1993. Another 1,000 Jews from Europe and the United States would also join the demonstration under the banner "Nobel terrorism prize" outside the Oslo town hall where the ceremony is to take place. Mr. Domb said. Protests are also scheduled in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa during the awards. Mr. Domb said he had just returned from a tour of Paris and Brussels to raise money for the Oslo demonstration. One of the Oslo prize committee resigned in protest at the award to Mr. Arafat. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres share the 1994 Nobel prize with PLO chief

Fire guts Iran's old parliament

NICOSIA (AP) — A pre-dawn fire gutted most of the former parliament building in Tehran Tuesday, Iran's official media reported. No injuries were reported. But about 70 per cent of the building was destroyed, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus. Firefighters brought the blaze under control. Tehran Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC), said the fire did not reach the Hall of Mirrors, which harbours historic paintings, nor did it damage the library. But some historical documents apparently not kept in the library area, were damaged. IRNA reported. The blaze in the building in the capital central Baharestan Square was thought to have begun in the building's central heating system, the reports said. Members of the nation's 270-member Majlis, or parliament, now meet in a new building.

cratisation and liberalisation of Jordan's political system. Mr. Hindawi's resignation letter and other sources indicate that he did not feel that he enjoyed enough power to assume his role properly and effectively.

An official source, however, strongly disagreed, saying that Mr. Hindawi "did not lack the power (in his capacity as deputy prime minister)." Analysts, who understand the implications of Mr. Hindawi's resignation, argue that Mr. Hindawi might have jeopardised his own chances of becoming the next prime minister by announcing his sudden resignation.

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

New entity makes it easy to get a loan

★ The Jordan Loan Guarantee Corporation has started its operations and is accepting applications from entrepreneurs of small and medium-size projects. The corporation's objective is to provide an entrepreneur with a guarantee based on a viable project, to obtain a loan from a commercial bank which is usually unwilling to extend credit without some form of a collateral. The guarantee from the corporation would serve as a security required by a bank should the entrepreneur not be able to provide a collateral for the loan. The corporation has a JD 7 million capital spread among 24 shareholders. The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has a JD 3 million equity and the rest belongs to 17 banks, the Social Security Corporation, the Amman Chamber of Commerce, the Amman Chamber of Industry and two insurance companies. CBJ Governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi is the chairman of the board (Al Ra'i).

★ Two senior bankers from Barclays Bank PLC are here on a visit that will last until Dec. 10, 1994. The bankers seek to obtain a better understanding of the Jordanian market and will be meeting representatives from the Amman Financial Market, the department responsible for foreign investment, and three leading stockbrokers. The British Bank of the Middle East is making all the arrangements for the guests.

★ According to informed sources at the Ministry of Agriculture, a national agricultural statistical survey will be done in 1995 which should lead to more accurate information about the agricultural sector and its development (Al Aswaq).

★ In some areas in Amman, a kilogramme of tomatoes is selling for 950 fils when the price fixed by the government and published in newspapers is 550 fils for the best quality (Al Aswaq).

★ The head of the society of moneychangers said the society had not taken any decision to ban trading in Israeli shekel. Noting that moneychangers have not yet received the Central Bank decision to lift the ban, he said that the society was ready to deal with the Israelis but that does not mean that the society can force a moneychanger to trade in shekels. He stressed that moneychangers are free to trade in shekel to suit their own interests (Al Aswaq).

★ A Romanian business delegation will buy Jordanian medicines worth about \$10 million next year from Dar Al Dawa Development and Investment Company. The head of the delegation said about 10 kinds of Jordanian drugs are currently being marketed in Romania. Jordan exported a total of JD 70.4 million worth of drugs last year, compared to JD 54.9 million in 1992 (Al Aswaq).

★ The general assembly of the Arab International Food Factories Company has completed all registration requirements. The company has a JD 6 million capital and will be producing baby food and milk of all kinds under a preliminary agreement which is still being negotiated with an international company. Major shareholders in the company are: The International Arab Company for Education and Investment (JD 600,000) Abdallah Abu Khadijeh (JD 600,000) and Ahmad Khattab (JD 300,000).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARISANI
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 660170
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY
MORNING SESSION 06/12/1994

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ADAR BANK	60	11,040	184.000	184.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2,600	11,938	4.600	4.590
BANK OF JORDAN	5,800	22,555	3.930	3.900
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	500	795	1.620	1.590
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	2,600	7,749	2.980	2.980
THE HOUSING BANK	4,000	22,400	5.650	5.600
JORDAN KUALITY BANK	5,250	16,113	3.050	3.050
JORDAN GULF BANK	1,140	1,910	1.700	1.670
JORDAN ATLANTIC BANK	3,000	11,135	3.720	3.720
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	500	1,505	5.000	5.210
BUSINESS BANK	200	344	3.720	3.720
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	250	1,238	5.000	4.950
BEIT ALAL SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	300	994	3.330	3.320
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	104,350	159,543	1.860	1.820
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	1,300	2,486	1.800	1.750
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	9,275	2,281	1.580	1.570
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	7,750	11,781	1.530	1.520
JORDAN HISHM MINERAL	200	296	1.410	1.480
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	12,600	41,079	3.280	3.260
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	900	4,251	3.700	3.490
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1,200	1,682	1.440	1.400
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	2,100	2,658	1.250	1.280
INDUSTRIAL EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	10,200	25,542	2.500	2.510
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDOMINIUM HOTELS	500	650	1.310	1.300
ATTACHEES COMPT. NATIONAL MANUFACTURING	42,133	121,700	0.900	0.880
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	6,600	18,015	2.600	2.730
JORDAN PROSPERITY MINES	975	5,382	9.340	9.350
JORDAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	300	1,840	1.790	1.790
MOULIN INDUSTRIES	1,931	12,473	8.250	8.150
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	4,133	25,464	6.170	6.140
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	4,500	10,125	2.320	2.250
JORDAN DAIRY	950	1,595	2.900	2.900
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	1,000	4,120	4.200	4.120
JORDAN PAPER & CARBONADO FACTORIES	1,000	10,470	17.450	17.450
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	600	11,885	1.940	1.940
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	11,400	4,850	7.100	7.000
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	850	17,075	1.020	1.000
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES	16,950	4,527	1.430	1.430
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	3,150	870	2.950	2.940
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	550	1,617	2.950	2.940
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	11,250	2,800	1.410	1.600
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	11,250	2,800	1.410	1.600
JORDAN ROYAL INDUSTRIES	2,400	5,088	2.100	2.120
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	2,400	5,088	2.100	2.120
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	6,250	11,578	1.800	1.850
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	2,650	11,309	4.250	4.270
KAWTHER INVESTMENT	6,250	23,905	2.760	2.730
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	6,750			
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6,750			
GRAND TOTAL	301,305	664,517		

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET: 1 160900
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET: 1 JD 198651

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 5/12/94	Tokyo Close 6/12/94
Sterling Pound	1.5570	1.5596**
Deutsche Mark	1.5717	1.5719
Swiss Franc	1.3255	1.3252**
French Franc	5.3950	5.3993**
Japanese Yen	100.36	100.42
European Currency Unit	1.2140	1.2134**

1SD Per 100
European Opening = 8.00 a.m. GMT

European Currency Interest Rates Date: 6/12/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.12	6.62	7.06
Sterling Pound	5.62	6.12	6.62	7.00
Deutsche Mark	5.06	5.00	5.12	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.75	3.93	4.12	4.83
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.68	6.12
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.18	2.31	2.56
European Currency Unit	5.68	5.78	5.90	6.53

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 6/12/1994

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	376.50	7.50	Silver	4.65	0.105

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 6/12/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7030	0.7050
Sterling Pound	1.0944	1.0999
Deutsche Mark	0.4468	0.4490
Swiss Franc	0.5296	0.5322
French Franc	0.1301	0.1308
Japanese Yen	0.6991	0.7020
Dutch Guilder	0.3991	0.4011
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0334	0.0436
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 6/12/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8490	1.8620
Lebanese Lira	0.041300	0.042700
Saudi Riyal	0.1862	0.1880
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3000	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1919	0.1932
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.8070	1.8260
UAE Dirham	0.1908	0.1912
Greek Drachma	0.2755	0.3235
Cypriot Pound	1.3985	1.5050

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Tourism agencies promote Cairo sites to avoid troubled south

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian tour operators have begun to promote little-known historical sites around Cairo rather than risk their customers' lives at more famous attractions in the troubled south of the country.

The ancient temples of Karanis, the Labyrinth tomb and the Hawara pyramid, all in Fayum near the capital, are gradually edging out the grander tourist sites in the south in the agencies' brochures.

Twelve tourists have been killed by Islamic militants in Egypt since 1992. Most militant attacks take place in southern provinces.

Fayum, 100 kilometres south of Cairo, "was a home for fundamentalist activities but has been calm for some time now," said Nadia Shamseddin, a tourism guide.

"The monuments there are in isolated locations and are easy to protect," she explained after a tour of Fayum organised by the union of tourism guides.

The visit was aimed at "refreshing our memory of this region which has been neglected until now in favour of the superb temples of Upper

Egypt," she said.

Tourism guides are counting on the small, well-conserved details of daily life in sites like Karanis to win tourists over from the lavish royal sites in the south.

Karanis, which boasts two small temples dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek, was in 200 B.C. a flourishing community of 3,000 people. Fragments from the village's glass works can be seen embedded in the ground.

Nearby the clay foundations and walls of a Graeco-Roman village are still visible. Olive presses are scattered around and an oven still bears traces of soot.

The village's public baths are perfectly conserved, right down to decorative mosaics of green and yellow grapes.

A small museum on the way into Karanis displays artefacts from ancient history all the way up to the reign of Faruq, the last king of Egypt. "Tourists are not disappointed by their visit here," said another tourism guide, Omar Zaki.

"Although the site is not as grandiose as the temples of Middle and Upper Egypt, it shows day-to-day life and therefore the human side of a civilisation which we could only see fixed in stone."

"We are walking on the history of this country," said a veteran guide of 70 years old who would only give her first name, Cleopatra.

It is more difficult however to picture how the 3,000 rooms of the funeral temple

of Amenemhat III, also known as the Labyrinth, would have looked in the second century B.C. when it was built.

Nothing remains of the maze designed to trap the unwanted visitor except three stone squares from the foundations, and the remains of a brick pyramid tomb.

Egypt's tourism revenue has plunged since Muslim militants launched a campaign of violence in March 1992 to overthrow the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak, which has left more than 510 people dead.

Tourism revenue fell from \$808 million in the first half of 1993 to \$742 million in the same period this year.

Beirut to probe Solidere bribery charge

BEIRUT (R) — Judicial authorities will probe charges by a parliamentary deputy that former members of parliament were bribed to pass a 1991 law setting up the \$3 billion Solidere company rebuilding central Beirut, judicial sources said Tuesday.

Ahmad Taqieddine, senior prosecutor for financial affairs, will also question Najah Wakim, a Christian deputy for a Beirut constituency, on other allegations he made of widespread political corruption and bribery, they said.

The hearing will be held next Monday, the sources added.

Mr. Wakim told a news conference last week a member of deputies in the previous parliament replaced in 1992 general elections received bribes to vote for law 117 setting up Solidere in December 1991.

Other politicians received Solidere shares worth a million dollars each, Mr. Wakim said.

On Friday, the day Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri announced his resignation, Mr. Wakim went on television and named two Hariri aides, who allegedly handed out the bribes.

Mr. Wakim, one of Mr. Hariri's strongest critics, said a third man was involved.

Mr. Hariri withdrew his resignation Monday after a reconciliation in Damascus with his main opponent parliament speaker Nabih Berri.

The 1991 Solidere law authorised the company to expropriate 1.6 million square metres of war-damaged city centre property for redevelopment in return for issuing shares to the owners and former tenants at officially-set prices to which owners have objected.

Desert locusts infest Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Desert locusts have infested Sudan and are threatening crops in the central, northern and eastern parts of the vast country, a Khartoum newspaper reported Tuesday.

The crop-eating insects, whose numbers have soared during recent heavy rainfalls, have occupied an area covering 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres), the official Al Sudan Al Hadith (modern Sudan) daily said.

It quoted Hassan Abbas, the general manager of the plant protection administration at the ministry of agriculture and natural resources, as saying a campaign to get rid of the pests is due to begin in the second half of this month.

Mr. Abbas has warned that the situation is likely to get worse because swarms of locusts in neighbouring Chad, Mauritania, Mali, Ethiopia and Somalia are expected to invade Sudan.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3728/38	Canadian dollar
	1.5690/00	Deutschmarks
	1.7570/80	Dutch guilders
	1.3236/46	Swiss francs
	32.27/31	Belgian francs
	5.3878/28	French francs
	1619.20/2	Italian lire
	100.31/41	Japanese yen
	7.5050/50	Swedish crowns
	6.8430/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.1480/30	Danish crowns
	\$1.5602/12	
One sterling	\$376.85/377.35	
One ounce of gold	\$376.85/377.35	

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AC Milan cannot afford to lose to Salzburg

LONDON (AP) — AC Milan's reign as Europe's most powerful soccer team will come to an end Wednesday if it fails to beat modest Austrian club Casino Salzburg in the Champions League.

Defending titlist in a competition it has won three times in the last six seasons, Milan needs a victory in Salzburg to scramble into the quarterfinal. Otherwise, its season is virtually over.

Current form does not point to success for the star-studded Milanese club, which is low on morale and even trailing well behind in the Italian League it usually dominates.

The team's 2-0 loss to Argentina's Velez Sarsfield Thursday in the World Cup Championship in Tokyo means Milan will likely end the season without a single trophy. It also has been eliminated from the Italian Cup.

"This is the same team which won the Champions Cup last season," Milan's managing director Adriano Galliani said. "This sudden fall is puzzling all of us."

Or maybe it's just the end of an era.

The lineup that crushed Barcelona 4-0 in last season's final in Athens, including standout Montenegrin midfielder Dejan Savicevic, all are available for the game in Salzburg. Now Milan needs another performance like the one in the final.

"It's in or out," coach Fabio Capello said. "It's a

game we must definitely win. But I can't hide that the team morale is low following the defeat against Velez."

That was Milan's ninth defeat in its last 21 games and the odds are that Salzburg will join already qualified Ajax Amsterdam in the last eight. Ajax hosts AEK Athens in the other Group D game.

Other teams already through to the quarterfinals are IFK Goteborg from Group A, Paris Saint Germain from Group B and Benfica and Hajduk Split from Group C.

Goteborg is a surprise qualifier because Barcelona and Manchester United were favoured to advance from the group. Now one of the two powerhouses will be eliminated.

United, in third place and a point behind Barcelona, hopes to beat Turkey's Galatasaray at home while the Spanish titlist will try to avoid a home loss to the Swedes.

The other close battle is in Group B. Mathematically, even last place Dynamo Kiev can advance if it gains a high-scoring home victory over Bayern Munich. Dynamo has only two points, two fewer than Bayern and second place Moscow Spartak.

But Spartak must travel to standings leader Paris Saint Germain, which has won all five games so far. Victories for Dynamo and PSG will mean the second qualifying place from the group will be decided on goal differential.

In Group C, Benfica, with eight points from five games, travels to Belgium's Anderlecht while Hajduk, six points, hosts Steaua Bucharest.

Although Milan beat Salzburg 3-0 at San Siro, the Italians had the two points taken away by UEFA, soccer's European governing body, because the Casino goalkeeper Otto Konrad was struck on the head by a bottle thrown by a home fan.

Manchester United wingers Ryan Giggs and Lee Sharpe, defender Paul Parker

know that when Barcelona is pressed it's always able to respond."

Bayern Munich also is gloomy after a loss to lowly Dynamo Dresden in Bundesliga action at the weekend and club president Franz Beckenbauer says he wants more enterprise from the team.

"This boring playing around I don't want to see anymore," the former World Cup star said.

"We have to change the

failed to show up for a domestic game Saturday. Ghanaian captain Anthony Yeboah, Nigeria's Jay Okacha and German playmaker Maurizio Gaudino are in dispute with team coach Jupp Heynckes over an extra training session he called last week.

Eintracht goes to Napoli Wednesday defending a 1-0 first leg lead.

Six other UEFA Cup games are being staged Tuesday with another on Thursday and Italy hopes to have four teams in the quarterfinal draw.

Juventus, titlist twice in the last five seasons, has a 3-1 advantage over Austrian team Admira Wacker, and Lazio is 2-1 ahead of Turkey's Trabzonspor.

The fourth Italian club is Parma, which is 1-0 down to Athletic Bilbao but riding high atop the domestic league standings. Parma is without broken ankle victim Thomas Broli but welcomes back Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla.

Real Madrid holds a 3-2 lead over Denmark's Odense while another Spanish club, Deportivo de La Coruna, must defend a 1-0 advantage over Borussia Dortmund without Brazilian star Bebe, who is suffering from pneumonia.

Germany's Bayer Leverkusen holds a 4-1 lead over Poland's Katowice while, on Thursday, French standings leader Nantes visits Sion cushioned by a 4-0 first leg advantage.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

and Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel all are sidelined through injury while Mark Hughes and Paul Ince are suspended.

Ukrainian winger Andrei Kanchelskis also may miss the game against the Turks at Old Trafford because of a stomach muscle injury but at least French striker Eric Cantona is available.

Barcelona is striving to overcome a surprise 2-1 loss to Galatasaray and two winless performances in the Spanish League, but it showed with its 4-0 victory over United a month ago that it can lift its performance at the right time.

"We mustn't be taken by surprise this time," Dutch sweeper Ronald Koeman said. "We know the quality of the opposition, but we also

team, give it a new face, therefore we'll have to make a cut at the end of the season."

Spartak coach Oleg Romantsev had told his team to forget all about what happens in Kiev between Dynamo and Bayern Munich as his team faces in-form PSG.

"I am putting my players in a winning frame of mind," he said. "We mustn't depend on the outcome of Kiev's game."

Dynamo hopes that striker Viktor Leonenko, who has scored three Champions League goals this season, could be the matchwinner against the Germans.

Eintracht Frankfurt's chances of reaching the last eight of the UEFA Cup may be hampered by a dispute involving three players who

ca boasts many international-standard venues.

Since returning to international football in July 1992 after almost three decades of apartheid-induced isolation, South Africa have played at nine venues, including three in Johannesburg.

But only Zambia, who filed Ellis Park rugby stadium for a match to celebrate the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president, and World Cup rivals Nigeria attracted good crowds.

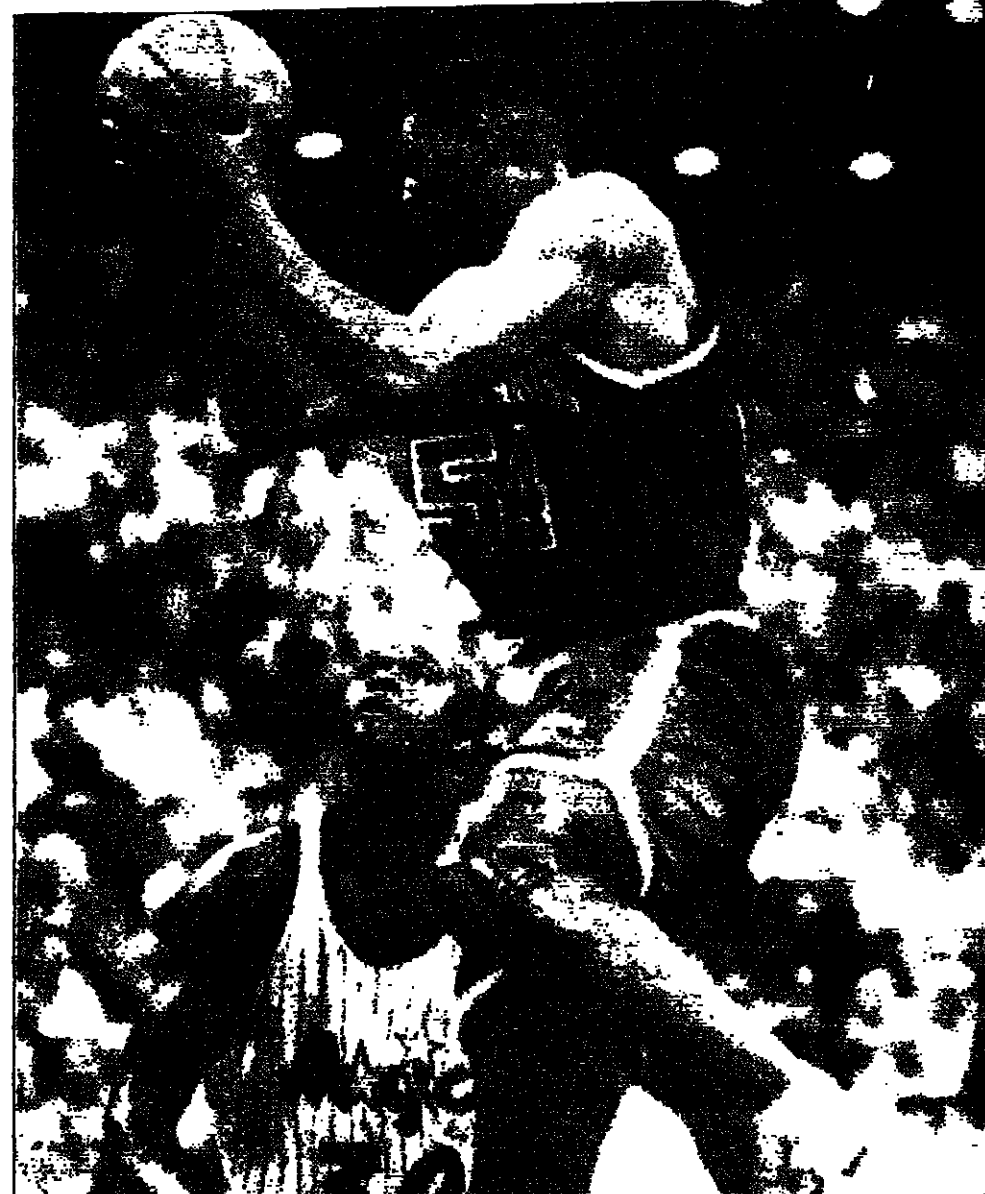
When South Africa replaced cash-strapped Kenya as Nations' Cup hosts last month, they inherited an expanded, 16-team tournament

involving 32 matches.

South Africa have also told world governing body FIFA they are interested in hosting the World Cup finals, which have never been awarded to Africa, in 2006.

However, unless there is a dramatic increase in crowd support, 1996 Nations' Cup matches involving less glamorous nations could be fought in front of empty stands.

And after the remarkably high attendances at the 1994 World Cup in the United States, FIFA would be unlikely to risk handing their showpiece to a land of armchair fans.



NY Knicks forward Charles Smith (right) goes up for a shot in front of Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal #32 during their Dec. 2 game

NBA runner-up NY Knicks off to slow start

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Patrick Ewing and the New York Knicks finished one victory shy of the National Basketball Association title last season.

Now they are struggling to stay within reach of fast-starting Orlando and trying to hold off Boston in the league's Atlantic Division.

"We're just trying to get turned on and playing with intensity. That's what it's all about," said coach Pat Riley, whose Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers clubs have never failed to win a division crown.

Ewing and guard John Starks are off to sub-par starts. Ewing has been hampered by a knee injury. Starks is making only 38 per cent of his shots.

"John has been working on his shots. I just let him go," Ewing said. "It's going to come around. I kid him, but his chops now and then. But it's in fun."

This season the team has had to search for the chemistry which came naturally last season. That was when the Knicks reached the league final, falling to Houston in the game seven of the title series.

Last week, Riley was taking a softly-softly approach to the problem.

"We have to stop passing judgement on every single thing every player does on the floor," Riley said. "That's one problem with this team. We're too judgemental."

Then came a devastating 125-100 loss to division rivals Orlando on Friday night, and suddenly Riley got tough.

On Saturday, he benched Starks and gave him a public dressing-down when Starks failed to hustle back on defense after having a shot blocked by Washington's Scott Skiles, who went on to score a three-pointer.

Riley's lecture seemed to work, and when Starks got back in the game nine minutes later he hit all four of his attempts as the Knicks beat the Bulls 111-95.

But even that victory could not soothe the sting of the

loss in Orlando.

"It feels good, but it's not totally satisfying," said forward Charles Smith, who scored 23 points on Saturday. "It was a good win, but we have to look at the overall picture. And in Orlando, we hit rock bottom."

The Knicks desperately need Ewing's 20.4-point average — the lowest since his rookie season — to improve. His 8.4-rebounds a game average is his lowest in seven seasons.

"Our rebounding is down from everybody across the board," Riley said. "Patrick concentrates on going to the boards and that's when it comes back. We're going to need more of that."

Winning is the only treatment the Knicks need, according to Ewing.

"We want to build on every win," he said. "We're playing well, but we have to come out and get a good team spirit going."

That means more outside help from Derek Harper, whose arrival last year secured the Knicks' backcourt, and forwards Charles Oakley and Smith.

The Knicks have a chance to improve in the week ahead, with five games against teams with losing records.

Their next clash with Orlando is on February 5, a game they are already anticipating.

"I don't think that game is out of our system," Smith said. "It won't be out of our system until we play them again."

Riley wants his team to concentrate on execution, not rivalries.

"We know who we are," Riley said. "We just have to execute. We're not where we want to be at the end of the season. We have a lot of work to do. We need to concentrate on defense and rebounding and we need to sustain it."

Pressure on LA Clippers

The pressure is really on now for the Los Angeles Clippers.

One more loss, and they've

matched the worst start in

NBA history.

One more loss, and they're

worse than laughingstocks.

One more loss, and they're

0-17.

The Clippers dropped to 0-16 Monday night with a 115-83 loss to the Charlotte Hornets, next up is the Milwaukee Bucks Wednesday, a game Los Angeles needs to win to avoid tying the Miami Heat's 0-17 start in its first season. That streak, ironically, ended when they beat the Clippers.

"Everybody's so frustrated. We all know the streak is hanging over us and we all don't want to be remembered that way," centre Matt Fish said.

Larry Johnson scored 18 points and Hersey Hawkins added 17 for the Hornets, who are 8-4 since their 0-3 start and have surrendered fewer than 100 points in a club-record seven straight games.

Hawkins powered Charlotte to a 37-22 lead through one quarter with 11 points. The clips got as close as 10 points with seven minutes left in the first half, but they never got nearer as the Hornets broke it open with a 13-2 run and opened an 83-56 lead with 25 seconds left in the third quarter.

Lamond Murray scored 14 points for Los Angeles, which has dropped 20 straight games overall and 30 of 32 since March 25.

New coach Bill Fitch hasn't helped.

"Some of us are just gluttons for punishment," Charlotte centre Robert Parish said with a chuckle after the game.

"One thing about Bill is that he always thrives on blossoms in situations like this. He seems to be motivated by rebuilding a programme and getting it off the ground."

In his first season with the Clippers, Fitch has eclipsed the 0-15 start he had with the expansion Cleveland Cavaliers as a rookie NBA coach in 1970. He has since gone on to coach more games than anyone in league history.

Arlington racetrack will not open in '95

CHICAGO (AP) — Arlington International Racecourse, one of the top thoroughbred tracks in the United States, will not open next year because its owner was not granted a riverboat casino licence.

Owner Richard Duchossois said Monday time ran out on his two-year effort to protect Illinois horse racing and breeding from competition from riverboat gambling when the legislature adjourned last week.

"We put forward a plan to save quality racing in Illinois, but it was not to be," he said. "Others offered no alternative options, plans or proposals. We failed."

His announcement was immediately followed by talk of trying to get the track reopened through legislative action.

Duchossois said parimutuel betting has dwindled because of competition from riverboats and the quality of racing is suffering.

He said with competition from a riverboat casino in Elgin, the Arlington Heights Racecourse faced two unacceptable probabilities in 1995 — the demise of high-class racing in Illinois as well as the loss of the Arlington Million and 19 other graded stakes races.

Duchossois also said the track faced a projected 1995 operating loss of \$6 million to \$10 million.

"After 11 years of hard work to build world-class racing in the Chicagoland area, we are unwilling to preside over its demise," he said.

Mark Gordon, a spokesman for Illinois Senate President James "Pete" Philip, said he hoped Duchossois would reconsider.

"We don't want to lose any major employer in the state," Gordon said. "It'd be a real tragedy if Arlington would close."

Gordon said that starting with the next legislative session "we'd be willing to consider any reasonable package to keep the horse-racing industry viable in Illinois."

Mike Lawrence, a spokesman for Gov. Jim Edgar, said the decision was detrimental to Illinois horse racing.

"Mr. Duchossois was not interested in anything short of having all of his demands met," Mr. Lawrence said.

The Illinois House speaker in the next legislative session, Rep. Lee Daniel, said from Springfield: "We're still hoping something can be done so that we can see racing at Arlington in the future."

Duchossois last week met with Edgar in an effort to broker a deal on riverboat gambling that would keep Arlington Open.

Empty stadiums haunt hosts of top African tournament

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Lack of spectator support has cast a deep shadow over South African football just one year before they host the 1996 African Nations' Cup finals.

On a continent where most national teams regularly perform in front of huge crowds, South Africa have consistently failed to attract large attendances.

Even the appearance of 1992 African Footballer of the Year Abedi Pele and other European-based stars for Ghana did not entice more than 15,000 fans to Pretoria last month.

And when South Africa faced a Cameroon team including the legendary Roger

Milla at the weekend in the concluding game of a four-nation tournament, fewer than 20,000 supporters turned up.

The dismal crowds are blamed on too much live TV coverage, high admission charges and competing forms of entertainment offered by a sophisticated society.

South Africa also lacks a national star like Pele. Kalusha Bwalya of Zambia or Rashidi Yekini of Nigeria to sell football to an audience who can choose from an array of sports.

Ironically, while spectators in other countries pack into a limited number of largely decaying stadiums, South Africa

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sampras races home

MUNICH (AFP) — World number one Pete Sampras raced to a straight sets win over Jaime Yzaga of Peru Tuesday in his opening match at the six million dollar Grand Slam Cup. Sampras, winner of more than \$3.6 million in prize money this year and the victor at the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the ATP Tour finals, won 6-2, 6-4 in 56 minutes. The Peruvian had beaten Sampras in the fourth round at the U.S. Open.

Former British champion to ride in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Former British champion jockey Michael Roberts is seeking a three-month contract to ride in Japan from early next year, a Japanese sports newspaper said Tuesday. Nikkan Sports said the South African-born jockey, who won the prestigious King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes in 1988 and 1992, is expected to compete in Japanese races for three months beginning next February. British jockey Alan Munro, who won the 1991 Epsom Derby on Generous, completed a three-month riding stint in Japan last weekend, having earned 14.5 million yen (\$145,000) and having won 14 races out of 143 rides.

Japanese swansong for Baresi

ROME (AFP) — AC Milan and Italy captain Franco Baresi is expected to play in the Japanese J-League next season, Italian television said Tuesday. The 34-year-old, whose missed penalty contributed to Italy's World Cup final defeat to Brazil in Los Angeles in July, has only just announced his retirement from international football. Baresi was believed to be negotiating an 18-month contract with Yokohama Flügels. The Japanese club was also reported to be interested in Baresi's former Milan teammate Ruud Gullit, now with Sampdoria, and Brazil's German-based World Cup captain Carlos Dunga. AS Rome defender Fabio Petrucci, 24, was seen as Baresi's likely replacement at Milan.

Group denies deal to move Rams from LA

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The group trying to bring a National Football League team to St. Louis has denied reports that a deal had been finalised with the Los Angeles Rams. Former Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton, point man for Fans Inc., said at a news conference on Monday that while he was still confident that a deal could be worked out, it was far from being finalised. ESPN had reported on a pregame show on Sunday that Fans Inc. had closed a deal with the Rams late last week. Rams president John Shaw told reporters in Los Angeles on Sunday that many details remained to be resolved and that no decision on a move would be made for "at least a couple of weeks."

French midfielder sidelined with injury

NAPLES (AP) — Alain Boghossian, the French midfielder of Italian first-division Napoli, may be sidelined for the rest of the 1994-95 season following a serious knee injury suffered in Sunday's league game against Torino. Napoli doctors reported Monday that the 24-year-old player, formerly of Marseille, damaged his right knee tendons following a play incident and will need several months to recover.

Stich sets up AIDS foundation

STUTTGART (AFP) — German tennis star Michael Stich deposited 500,000 marks (\$320,000) from his own winnings to establish a foundation for child AIDS sufferers here Monday. The Stich Foundation will help ease the suffering of the children, said the world number nine, "give them something to wipe away their tears and make them laugh." Top players will compete in a tournament in Mannheim in February to raise funds for the cause, he said, adding "with capital growth, the foundation will help child AIDS cases for decades to come."

NHL negotiators resume talks

CHICAGO (AP) — Negotiators for hockey players and owners resumed negotiations Monday with time running out to salvage a season. Stalemate talks broke off Friday, and owners and players agreed it was best to spend the weekend canvassing their constituents. Both sides have agreed on certain concepts, but the gap is considerable on the issues of salary arbitration, a rookie salary cap and free agency. As for a deadline to reach a new collective bargaining agreement, some general managers feel a deal has to be done by the end of the week. Others believe they have until Christmas to work things out. For months, the NHLPA said there would not be a rookie salary cap, but the Union has given in and the sticking point now is level of pay.

Troubled Marseille to have new president

MARSEILLE (R) — Troubled Marseille will have a new president, sources close to the former European soccer champions said Tuesday. Marseille have been without a president since the French Federation banned business tycoon Bernard Tapie over a bribery scandal last July. The new president is well known in soccer and media circles and the sources said without elaborating. Marseille were relegated to the second division after being accused of bribing opponents Valenciennes to throw a key league match in May last year.

Papin back for France

PARIS (AFP) — France, yet to score in their first three games, recall Jean-Pierre Papin to lead their attack in a European Championship qualifying match against Azerbaijan Dec. 13. Eric Cantona, criticised for a series of indifferent performances, keeps the captaincy. France have won three and drawn four games under the Manchester United forward's command. Papin won his 52nd and last cap against Japan in May when he scored his 29th international goal. He has been plagued by injury since moving from AC Milan to Bayern Munich in the summer. The Group One match is being played at Trabzon, Turkey, because of fears for safety in Azerbaijan. France's first three qualifying matches, against Slovakia, Romania and Poland, all ended 0-0.

Australian coaches call for 4-year ban on Chinese

BRISBANE (R) — Australia's swimming coaches will ask the sport's world governing body FINA to ban Chinese swimmers from international competition for four years following seven positive tests at last month's Asian games. The ban would include the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the 1998 World Championships in Perth, Australia.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSH ©1983 Tribune Media Services Inc.		3 + Pass	5 + Pass	Pass
HANDLE WITH CARE Both vulnerable. South deals.				
NORTH				
♠ A 7 2				
♥ K 6 3				
♦ 8 6 4 3				
♣ Q 10 3				
WEST				
♠ J 10 8 6				
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♦ A J 2				
♣ 7 5				
EAST				
♠ Q 9 5				
♥ 10 7				
♦ K Q 9 7 6				
♣ 8 6 4				
SOUTH				
♠ K 4 3				
♥ A Q 5 2				
♦ 10				
♣ A K J 9 2				
The bidding:				
South: 1 ♠				
West: 2 ♣				
North: 3 NT				
East: 3 ♠				

and queen and then cashed the ace and king of hearts.

When declarer next led a heart from dummy, East ruffed and returned a spade. Since declarer had no entry to hand to use the queen of hearts for a spade discard, the defenders were able to take a diamond and a spade for down one.

Declarer was on the right track. South's mistake came at trick one — the spade lead should have been won with dummy's ace. The play then proceeds as above with a diamond difference. If East ruffs the third heart and reverts to a spade, declarer can win the queen of hearts and ruff a spade for the fulfilling trick.

It does not help East to refuse to ruff the third heart. Declarer ruffs the fourth heart with the ten of trumps and loses only a spade and a diamond trick.

Ramtha score only goal in Jordan Cup semifinals

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Faisali and Al Hussein were held to a goalless draw in their Jordan Cup semifinal at Amman International Stadium. In the other match, Al Ramtha scored a 1-0 victory over Al Arabi in Irbid.

Monday Abu Hadeib scored the match's sole goal in the 66th minute.

The top four teams will now play the second leg of the semifinals to determine the top two teams that will clash in the final for the 15th Jordan Cup title.

U.S. Major Leaguers strong on rhetoric

ATLANTA (R) — Striking Major League Baseball players were strong on rhetoric Monday, vowing never to agree to the owners' demands for a salary cap and other give backs in their dispute with owners.

"There is a good chance to this point that we are not going to be playing in 1995," said Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Bob Scanlan, after the first of three days of meetings between players which drew 78 big leaguers Monday.

"We will never give in to the owners even if it means sitting out next year, and maybe never playing again," Scanlan said.

Federal mediator William Usery will meet with the players in an attempt to get them to prepare a new proposal for the owners when negotiations resume on Friday in a suburb of New York City.

The ability of the players to come up with a plan could be the last hope for a mutual settlement before the owners impose a salary cap. The owners, bowing to pressure from Usery, last week decided to delay their decision on whether to implement their salary cap plan.

The latest proposal by the owners consists of taxes on revenues and payrolls to fund the small market teams. But players association head Donald Fehr has said the proposal "does not appear markedly different from a salary cap."

"I have to make personal decisions based on the possibility of not playing in 1995," said Boston Red Sox star pitcher Roger Clemens. "We are determined to do whatever it takes, including not pitching and seeing our careers end."

Magazine claims Otto part of E. German doping programme

NEW YORK (AP) — Olympic star Kristin Otto and other members of East Germany's record-shattering women's swimming teams were part of a systematic doping programme, according to secret police records published in an American magazine.

The December issue of Swimming World carries results from the Stasi, the East German secret police, showing Otto, winner of six gold medals at the 1988 Olympics, with steroid levels almost three times the limit needed to trigger a positive result.

It also quoted a chemist familiar with the Stasi documents as saying they prove that every top East German athlete used performance-enhancing drugs, administered at scientifically determined intervals to avoid drug tests.

Otto's ratio of testosterone to epitestosterone of 17-1 topped a list of test results from Aug. 9, 1989, that also included world-class swimmers Daniela Hunger (12.5-1), Dagmar Hase (10-1) and Heike Friedrich (8.8-1), according to Stasi documents quoted in the magazine.

Anything over a 6-1 ratio is considered illegal under doping guidelines set by the International Olympic Committee.

"Otto had more testosterone in her than the entire starting team of the Dallas Cowboys," said Phillip Whitten, the magazine's editor in chief and author of the article. "It's no wonder she was able to win six gold medals at the Seoul Olympics."

Whitten said that although Otto has long ago retired from swimming, it was important to publicise the findings because of drug tests that are now finding Chinese swimmers using steroids to help break records and win world championships.

Old East German coaches have helped set up the Chinese swimming programmes.

"I can't believe that the Chinese would be sloppy, but I'm happy that they were because they were caught," Whitten said in a telephone interview from his office in Sedona, Arizona.

A copy of the Stasi document accompanying the article showed the swimmers' tests with the German word "positive" after each. The report was signed by Dr. Claus Clausnitzer, director of East Germany's central doping control laboratory.

East Germany dominated women's swimming in the 1970s and '80s, with stars such as Otto and Kornelia Ender routinely winning gold medals and then passing drugs tests, only one top East German swimmer, 1988 Olympic silver medalist Astrid Strauss, ever failed a doping examination, and that was at a national championship in 1992, after Germany had been united following the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

For the last three years, reports based on Stasi files and personal recollections have outlined wide, state-supported system of boosting East German athletes' performances through outlawed drugs. But Swimming World said the documents it obtained through an unidentified source were the first to detail the programme and include such high-ranking athletes as Otto.

The magazine also quoted Dr. Werner Franke, a German biochemist and member of a national commission investigating Stasi files, as saying that the police documents "prove without a doubt that every single East German world class athlete was doped."

The magazine offered no documents to support Franke's assertion.

Franke was also quoted as saying East German scientists administered drugs on the basis of "clearance curves," which predicted when the last traces of steroids would leave an athlete's system.

Steroids help athletes by building muscle and aiding recovery from the wear and tear of injuries or normal workouts. Testosterone is a normally occurring male hormone that can be naturally present in women, but only in ratios of about 1-1 with epitestosterone.

LA Raiders upset Chargers 24-17

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Los Angeles Raiders spoiled San Diego's fun Monday night with Jeff Hostetler's 6-yard touchdown pass to Rocket Ismail with 7:23 left giving them a 24-17 victory over the Chargers.

The Chargers (9-4) needed a victory to clinch their second AFC west title in three seasons. The Raiders, meanwhile, needed a victory to stay alive in the scrambled playoff picture and joined four other AFC teams with 7-6 records.

A record crowd of 63,012 hoped to celebrate a division

title for the Chargers, but the Raiders won at Jack Murphy stadium for the fourth time in five years.

Ismail's second TD catch of the night came at the end of an 81-yard, nine-play drive on which Hostetler completed passes of 31 and 16 yards to Tim Brown. Ismail also caught a 6-yard scoring pass from Vince Evans in the second quarter.

The Chargers began their final drive to their 8-yard line with 1:28 to play and got to the Los Angeles 48 before a holding penalty moved them back. Aaron Wallace sacked

Stan Humphries to end the game.

The Raiders outscored San Diego 10-3 in the fourth quarter. The fourth quarter had been a problem for the Raiders, who had been outscored 98-49 in their 12 previous fourth periods.

The Chargers squandered two big opportunities in the second half.

Natrone Means' halfback pass from the Raider 19 sailed way over the head of wide-open Shannon Mitchell, and Means fumbled two plays later.

English players head anti-drugs campaign

LONDON (R) — England striker Alan Shearer and several of his international teammates Monday backed a video campaign to prevent the growing threat of widespread drug abuse in British soccer.

The video, designed to help young players avoid the temptation of drugs, was launched two weeks after Arsenal and England striker Paul Merson admitted to being addicted to cocaine.

Shearer, whose goals have helped take Blackburn to the top of the Premier League, was backed by Liverpool winger John Barnes and Newcastle striker Andy Cole as well as leading managers George Graham of Arsenal and Joe Royle of Everton.

They all took part in the production of a three-part film, commissioned by the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), which forms the core of a special anti-drugs pack being sent to every club in England.

In the film, Shearer warned of the perils of drugs. "You just don't need them," he said. "It's never entered my mind to take drugs and if you want to go all the way to the top, my message is don't even think about taking them."

PFA chief executive, Gordon Taylor, backed the film and the campaign, but stressed that the results of random tests in the last two years showed that professional soccer in England was free of performance-enhancing drugs.

He said the big threat was from so-called recreation drugs which could be used by young players entering the game.

Taylor revealed that several clubs had contacted the PFA and expressed suspicions about young players' behaviour and absences from training. Taylor conceded: "It's slightly more of a problem than we anticipated."

This, he said, was one of the main reasons why drug-testing had been switched from post-match to random tests at training grounds for all players. "If there is a problem, we can choose to target tests and have done that on occasion," he said.

Speaking after the players' annual meeting in Manchester, Taylor also defended the sympathetic treatment promised to players with a drugs problem.

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Robert Redford & Demi Moore — in Indecent Proposal		David Bradley in Cyborg Cop		CONCORD '1' The Age of Innocence Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30		very soon Musa Hijazin (Sama'h) in political satire Hi...Citizen	Thursday...Thursday 1.12.1994 You have a date with Abu Awad at the opening of the new performance of the comedy: A Punctured Bag (Qirbeh Makhzouqa) Ticket window is open all day	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam. Daily at 8:30 Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday. in English Sundays December 11, 18, only.
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '2' Kim Basinger — in GETAWAY Shows: 3:15, 5:00 p.m. only.		CHILDREN'S PLAY Water is A Blessing From Heaven Time 10:00 a.m.		

King Hussein: Jordan grateful for Dutch support

Your Majesty Queen Beatrix, Your Royal Highness Prince Claus,
Our dear friends,

It is a privilege and a pleasure for me on behalf of Noor and for myself, on behalf of the people and the government of Jordan, to welcome you amongst us on this State Visit to Jordan as dear friends, as old friends and as good friends.

We are ever proud of the relations that have linked us over the years and that have grown between us and between our countries and peoples. There are many memories of your previous visit to Jordan, and long ago before that, of the very first time I went to Europe and the west to study, following the loss of Jordan's founder, a man of peace, my late grandfather, to fulfill his wish that I should study with my late cousin the King of Iraq at Harrow in England.

I went to Damascus on the way and I was the guest of KLM, the Royal Dutch airline which took me to Amsterdam where I saw a beautiful city, during the tulip season, and where I had the opportunity to gain an impression that has never faded, and then on to England.

Over the years I've had the privilege and the pleasure of seeing this friendship grow between our countries and ourselves and our families and I hope that this will be the case in all the years to come. Beyond that there are many ties and there are many common interests; a paramount one is care of the environment. I remember Your Majesty, having the privilege of representing Jordan at the Hague Conference which showed and reflected the concern of those who participated there in the future of our planet and its people and its resources and beyond that, the cause of

peace in this region and in the world.

I am happy that after all these years your visit comes to this country following the fulfillment of a dream, as far as I was concerned throughout my life, of the establishment of peace in this region, for its peoples. We have taken one additional step... (along with) our Palestinian brethren, whom we have supported and will continue to support to the best of our ability to recover their rights on their legitimate soil. We have taken a step to establish an honourable peace that has restored to us our land and the fair share of our water. Beyond that, (as) result of our common endeavours in both countries and desire to see an end to the fighting, to the turmoil, to the uncertainty with which we lived.

(So our legacy for the future generations is) the comprehensive peace which we are certain will arrive to this area and to this land and where Jerusalem hopefully will become the essence and the meaning of peace between the followers of the three great monotheistic religions, the Abrahamic religions.

We hope that a solution will encompass the rights of Palestinians on their soil and land and in terms of the implementation of Security Council resolution 242, and we hope that Jerusalem can become a symbol of peace between the Palestinians and Israelis, the Arabs and the Jews, and all the followers of the three great monotheistic religions.

We know how concerned, Your Majesty, you have been personally with the issue of peace in this region, and we know that during the very difficult times that we have passed and our march has not been easy, nor has it been smooth, but this is a turbulent part of the world. We value, above all, the friends

who stood by us, who understood us time and again, and who stood by us during times of difficulty. There is no way by which we can repay the warmth and the hospitality we received from you and your government and people, and it is indeed above value. It is something that we treasure and cherish for all the times to come.

I am happy that (regarding) the economic dimension last year, the volume of trade was \$108 million. I hope it will grow in the times ahead as well as in all fields.

In terms of peace, where our troops serve jointly with the U.N., we in Jordan are rated as the fifth country in the world in terms of the size of its contribution to peace efforts in the world and the second in the former Yugoslavia.

With regard to peace in this region, of peace in the world and with regard to the environment and the future of mankind I hope that we will continue to work together to see the fulfillment of many further dreams and hopes and aspirations for all of us. This is our commitment and we will do whatever we can for the future. We are dedicated to the cause of generations to come.

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness I know how much this visit means to Noor and me and to Jordanians as it comes at this particular time when you must be and you are, and we are very concerned and worried about the health of Prince Bernard, your dear and beloved father. Nonetheless, that you have honoured us with this visit is something that we always will remember and cherish in the times ahead. We pray for his good health and that of your dear mother as well.

Once again, I bid you a very hearty welcome on behalf of all of us. May God bless you...

Thank you...

Queen Beatrix: Peace heralds cooperation, prosperity

Your Majesty,

It is more than 16 years since, under very different circumstances, my husband and I paid an official visit to Jordan. Our State Visit now is not only an opportunity for us to see your country again, but also a reunion with you and the Queen, the Crown Prince and Princess, and the other members of your family. Fortunately there have been very regular, warm personal meetings between our families, during the past years and the younger generation is also following our good example. We look back with pleasure and gratitude to the many occasions on which we have been able to welcome you in our country. I would particularly like to recall your official visit in 1984 and your participation in the Hague summit conference on the Protection of the Global Atmosphere in 1989. That is why this visit is not only a happy reunion for us, but also the confirmation of a close friendship between our families — a friendship for which we are grateful.

In 1988, Your Majesty, you addressed the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the role of Jordan in the Middle East. You said then: "We have followed every avenue, exploited every opportunity, and bent over backwards to accommodate friend and foe alike to see a just and lasting peace in our troubled region." Now, six years later, we can affirm that, on this long road to peace, progress has been made that would then have been unimaginable. The recent peace agreement concluded by your country has made a great impression in the Netherlands, as elsewhere, and has aroused fresh hope that the "just and lasting peace" has now indeed come within reach. The pictures of your impressive appearance in Israel which we have recently seen on television speak for themselves. It is clear, therefore, to my husband and me that our visit to Jordan takes place at an historic moment.

We know Jordan as a land that has risen out of the fluctuating history of this century. You, Your Majesty, have to a large extent written the history of your country. The peace agreement that has now been concluded is the crown on your work, on

the policy of overcoming differences and preventing conflicts that you have always pursued, with much personal courage and vision. With this policy you have proved yourself capable of bearing the heavy responsibility that was laid up on your shoulders at an early age. All over the world you are respected for the way in which, throughout your long reign, you have succeeded in making Jordan a land of conciliation.

The agreement now concluded implies more than the prospect of a future without armed conflict. It also opens the way to cooperation in the region as a new source of development and prosperity. With the falling away of hindrances that have so long existed here, Jordan and her neighbouring countries will be able to enter a new period of growth, with a large-scale programme of economic cooperation. The damage that war conditions have inflicted on the Jordanian economy in the recent past, can now, one would hope, soon be repaired.

This economic recovery will also have an important impact on the way you continue to handle the refugee problem. For many years your country has hospitably received large numbers of refugees. In so doing Jordan has further strengthened the constructive role it plays in the region by adding to it an important humanitarian dimension. The world was able to observe with admiration how the Jordanian people received vast numbers of refugees who poured in during the Gulf conflict. This involved great efforts by everyone and was done efficiently and with dignity.

Jordan, Your Majesty, is the guardian of a rich heritage from a distant past. These treasures handed down by history are world famous. In the Netherlands there exists a lively interest in this aspect of your country, both among those who visit the archaeological treasures here out of personal interest, and among the experts who give concrete expression to the scientific collaboration that exists in this field between our two countries. Archaeologists from your Yarmouk University and our University of Leiden are together studying the important civilisations that have succeeded one another in this region. Each of the great periods of your history — Assyrian, Egyptian, ancient Arabian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Biblical and early Islamic — has left its marks here and set its particular stamp on what has eventually become the Jordan of today. It is characteristic of the Jordanian people that they proudly cherish and preserve this gift from the past. With this rich historical legacy young Jordan is also — as the poet puts it — "half as old as time."

It is upon the foundations of these ancient civilisations and of the three great monotheistic religions that modern Jordan has been built. Widely differing population groups live together here in a multifaceted democracy, in which the diversity of the people can find expression. The wealth of present-day Jordan is her inheritance from the past. A high standard of education has enabled them to reach impressive achievements in the social and economic fields in recent years. The image that the outside world now has of Jordan is that of a tolerant society that is open to the world and is determined to invest its human capital in the swift development of the country.

Where the presence of the desert predominates, water is precious. That is indeed the case in your country. Nature has given you the River Jordan, but has left it to the Jordanians to make the best possible use of it. It will be particularly interesting for my husband and me to be briefed tomorrow (Wednesday) on how in the Jordan Valley water is carefully managed and put at the service of the development of agriculture in that area. We are also pleased that we shall visit the Royal Institute of Science, and learn more about the way in which Jordan is attempting to push back parts of the desert and to develop dry regions. The greenhouses that have been built in the Jordan Valley remind us of our own country, where market gardening also constitutes a mainstay of agriculture. There are indeed more contrasts than similarities between our countries in this domain: while your country needs every drop of water it has and possesses sunshine in abundance, we sometimes have more water than we need, but seldom enough sun.

Your Majesty,

Recently an interview with Queen Noor was shown on Dutch television. She talked about work in the area of nature conservation and about the Foundation that bears her name, in which she herself plays such an active part. By way of illustration, the programme included pictures of our visit to Jordan in 1978. These showed clearly that my husband and I were then somewhat younger than we are now. But Jordan was younger too. What has been achieved in Jordan in the meantime is, in our eyes, the theme of this visit.

Grateful for the reception that has been prepared for us here — entirely in the tradition of Jordan's well-known hospitality — I ask all of you present to raise your glasses with me and drink to your health, to the health of Queen Noor, to the friendship between our families, to the continuation of the peace process, and to the happy future of the Jordanian people in a lasting peace.



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan receive Israeli Likud Party leader Benjamin

Netanyahu who paid a one-day visit to Jordan yesterday (see story page 1)

Christopher tells Israel, Syria: No going back now

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told Israel and Syria on Tuesday there could be no going back now in the search for Middle East peace.

"We must continue to move forward there is no going back," he told reporters upon arrival at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport after more than four hours of talks with President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus.

"To accept the status quo would only allow these extremists to prevail and would miss the historic opportunity to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

"And an opportunity that is not likely to come again," Mr. Assad said Thursday that if he had to choose between the status quo and yielding to Israel's demands, "I would choose the current situation."

Mr. Rabin riposted Friday that if Mr. Assad preferred the status quo no one could impose peace on him.

"The status quo is not an answer to violence or terror it

will only invite more terror," said Mr. Christopher on his seventh Middle East shuttle this year to try to break the peace deadlock.

The secretary was to brief Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Wednesday before going to Gaza City to see PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Christopher was slated to leave Israel early Thursday. It was unclear if he would return to Damascus.

Before leaving Damascus Mr. Christopher told the state-run SANA news agency that Mr. Assad was "serious" in his determination to achieve peace.

"We are trying to clarify all the questions," Mr. Christopher said. He declined to elaborate.

Mr. Assad's spokesman, Gebran Kurieh, also said the talks were "serious" and that Mr. Christopher and the president "exchanged views on ways of pushing forward the peace process."

U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and Syrian

Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa attended the meeting.

U.S.-mediated peace talks between Syria and Israel have been deadlocked over the terms and extent of a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which the Jewish state conquered in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Mr. Assad, who spoke by telephone Sunday with U.S. President Bill Clinton, has been unflinching in his demand that Israel must first agree to pull out from the Golan Heights before peace talks progress.

A war of words erupted between Israel and Syria, with both countries blaming one another for the stalemate and threatening to stop negotiations.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Tuesday "the Syrians still think we have to agree to all their demands and then start negotiating."

"No country in the world can agree to such conditions. Why should we give them anything?" Mr. Peres said.

Hariri back in business

BEIRUT (R) — Billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri reversed his resignation decision on Tuesday, saying he will cooperate with top leaders to carry on rebuilding Lebanon from the ruins of civil war.

"I stress that I am with President (Elias) Hrawi and Speaker (Nabih) Berri... and we will not allow the situation to remain in the same atmosphere that prevailed lately," Mr. Hariri said in a televised statement.

This ended five days of political and financial turmoil after Mr. Hariri's announcement on Friday that he was resigning because of what aides called "deep rifts" with Mr. Berri whom they blamed for blocking Mr. Hariri's reconstruction efforts.

But Mr. Hariri gave no details of a Syrian-brokered deal ending the crisis, which unleashed a \$300-million run on the Lebanese pound and unprecedented corruption charges by rival politicians.

There was no indication that he won his demand at reconciliation talks in the Syrian capital for a new government or at least a reshuffle ousting his most belligerent opponents.

But the jovial, 48-year-old construction tycoon spoke with confidence of a new era of cooperation with rivals whom he bitterly accused last week of blocking his projects for rebuilding Lebanon from the ruins of the 1975-90 civil war.

This suggested that Syrian leaders may have given guarantees that Mr. Berri, his chief rival, and opponents in the cabinet will collaborate with Mr. Hariri in future.

He was quoted as saying last week that Lebanon was ungovernable and he was adamant that he would not carry on, but he changed his mind on Tuesday.

Temper frays as leaders compete for rooms

BUDAPEST (R) — Monday's CSCE summit was supposed to be about good feelings and good neighbourhood, but the narrow corridors and rooms of the Budapest Convention Centre quickly had the participants fighting for territory. Soon after the two-day summit opened Austrian President Thomas Klestil, chairing a plenary session, appealed to leaders to stop holding informal bilateral meetings in the hall because it was disturbing the formal proceedings. Later in the day, however, tempers boiled over. A bilateral meeting Monday between German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and British Prime Minister John Major, scheduled to take 30 minutes, dragged on for over an hour. Bright television camera lights and a phalanx of burly bodyguards announced the arrival of Czech President Václav Havel and Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, who had booked the room next. "The president of the Republic of Georgia is waiting," a furious representative of Mr. Shevardnadze hissed at a German bodyguard who stood protectively across the doors of the room. "We had the right to this room two minutes ago." As two sets of security men silently eyed each other up, the German stood impassive. "Herr Kohl and Mr. Major are aware that the presidents are waiting and will come out when they are ready," he said. "We've got a problem with outraged Georgians on our hands," a member of Mr. Major's team murmured to a colleague. A short while later the door opened and first the German chancellor and then Mr. Major emerged from the room and were whisked away by their respective staff. Neither acknowledged Mr. Havel or Mr. Shevardnadze.

Children survive 3 weeks in mountains

BUENOS AIRES (R) — A six-year-old Argentine boy and his four-year-old sister who were lost for three weeks in mountains roamed by pumas, deadly snakes and wild boar have been found alive after surviving by eating apples and drinking stream water, police said Monday.

Daniel and Romina Quispe got lost in the province of Jujuy in Argentina's far north after going out to look for their parents who had failed to return from tending their flocks. The children wandered 100 kilometres through Jujuy's subtropical mountains inhabited by wild animals and snakes before taking shelter in a ruined hut, where they were found Sunday so dehydrated and hungry that Romina could not walk.

"Apples were the only tasty food there was, so we ate them all day," Daniel told his rescuers. "Sometimes we were still hungry, but there wasn't much to eat among all the plants." Police in the regional capital San Salvador de Jujuy told Reuters the two children were treated at a remote rural health centre, then faced a gruelling multi-day ride out of the mountains as they were being driven to a children's hospital in the city.

Assistant Police Chief Raul Aizman told reporters in Jujuy that the members of the 30-man search party had refused to be relieved until they found the children.

Queen Elizabeth approves oil drilling at castle

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth has given the go-ahead to allow drilling for oil in the grounds of Windsor Castle near London, Buckingham Palace said Tuesday. "Permission for exploration to take place is required because it is crown estate land, and that was given," said a palace spokesman. The Guardian newspaper reported that the British-based company behind the project, Canuk Exploration Ltd, had calculated there could be up to 100 million barrels of oil worth about \$1 billion (\$1.56 billion) in an area near the walls of the Norman Castle. But Britain's Press Association news agency quoted unidentified experts as saying there was only a one in eight chance of striking commercial quantities of oil or gas at the site.

Israeli soldier killed in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — An Israeli soldier was killed and another wounded in fighting in South Lebanon Tuesday as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began a Middle East peace shuttle, Lebanese security sources reported.

Israeli authorities said that one soldier was seriously wounded, but made no mention of a fatality in the attack on the Israeli-occupied sector in the flashpoint region.

The security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb near Beaufort Castle, built by the Crusaders in the Middle

Ages, as an Israeli army patrol passed.

The sources said the two Israeli casualties were airlifted by military helicopter to Rambam hospital in northern Israel and shortly after the 4:15 p.m. (1415 GMT) ambush.

The wounded soldier's condition was not immediately known, they reported.

Later, Israeli helicopter gunships and artillery fired on ravines and suspected guerrilla trails near the ambush scene on the edge of the central sector of the Israelis' self-designated "security zone" along the border.

There was no claim of responsibility for the ambush, but it bore all the hallmarks of the Shiite Muslims Hizbollah, or party of God. The pro-Iranian guerrilla group, like Tehran, opposes the Middle East peace process.

Tuesday's attack came as Mr. Christopher arrived in Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on ways to push forward stalled negotiations between Syria and Israel.

The almost daily violence in South Lebanon, the last active Arab-Israeli war zone, usually escalates when senior U.S. officials visit the region to promote the peace effort.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE to take islands row to international court

LONDON (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said it would refer its dispute with Iran over three Gulf islands to the International Court of Justice, hours after Tehran said it planned to establish courts on one of them. The UAE had been forced to take the step "because of Iranian intransigence and its strong unwillingness to end its occupation of the three islands," Foreign Affairs Under-Secretary Sayf Said said in a statement Monday night to the Kuwaiti News Agency, KUNA, monitored by the BBC. Iran's decision to set up ordinary and revolutionary courts would strengthen the presence of Iranian state institutions on the Gulf island of Abu Musa, which Iran has been running jointly with UAE member Sharjah under a 1971 agreement. Iran, which says its right over Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tumb islands is "eternal and definite", has rejected earlier proposals to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, in remarks published in Iran News newspaper Monday, said dialogue was the only way to settle the dispute.

Tunis to host arms control meeting

TUNIS (AFP) — A new round of multilateral talks on disarmament and security in the Middle East will open here on Dec. 13, attended by delegates from 44 countries, officials said Tuesday. It will be the seventh meeting of the working group on arms control — one of five multilateral groups set up at the October 1991 Madrid conference which launched the peace process. The three-day meeting was arranged last month by experts from 17 countries including Israel and Palestinian officials. They agreed on a document to be presented at the Tunis meeting, which refers to accords on communications, information exchanges on military activities, incidents at sea, research and rescue work. Syria and Lebanon are boycotting the multilateral meetings. The other working groups are on economic cooperation, water resources, the environment and refugees.

Israelis oppose U.S. troops on Golan

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Nearly seven out of 10 Israelis are against the stationing of U.S. troops on the Golan Heights to monitor a peace agreement, according to a poll published Tuesday. Only 15 per cent favoured putting American soldiers on the strategic plateau while the remainder voiced no opinion on the survey for the Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv's Bar Ilan University. Sixty per cent also opposed a full withdrawal from the heights, which Syria has steadfastly demanded, while just over 23 per cent back a total pullout. The poll was released just hours before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's expected arrival in Jerusalem from Damascus on a seventh bid this year to bring peace to the two neighbours. Israel has offered a phased pullout from part of the plateau with security arrangements monitored by the United States.

German President Herzog arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — German President Roman Herzog arrived in Israel Tuesday for a two-day visit, the second by a German head of state since World War II. Mr. Herzog, killed by Nazis during World War II, was met by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at Tel Aviv's airport. The two men and Mr. Herzog's wife, Christiane, were whisked off to Jerusalem and did not speak to reporters. Mr. Herzog, who was scheduled to visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial later Tuesday, said last week he would not shirk from addressing Nazi evils nor neo-Nazi violence in modern Germany. The visit is his first to a sign, his office says, of the special character of German-Israeli relations. Israeli President Ezer Weizman will personally accompany Mr. Herzog on all his official engagements, a gesture that the Israeli ambassador in Bonn, Abraham Primor, described in an interview with the Die Welt daily as "extremely unusual."